

Sunday August 27th sermon: "The Comforter Has Come to Us! -- The God of All Comforts (Pt 30)"

Preached at the Lord's Table at Grace Bible Church in Greenwood, MS,  
by John Pittman Hey

John 14:16-18; John 14:25-26

God comforts us by the oath He made to Christ, appointing Him our high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Christ communicates to us His delight to do God's will, and the joy that He has in it. Christ prays that we will enter into His joy!

We are to be a joyous, obedient band of brothers with Christ, our prince and our kinsman redeemer, knit together in joy, love, faith and courage. The purpose is that, in the end, all the joyous things Christ promised will be accomplished in every one of us who have trusted in Him.

No wonder Christ prayed that His joy would be fulfilled in His people. His prayer cannot fail for any of us!

Christ's joy must be fulfilled in us! What He joys in must be accomplished in every one of His people, and when it is, His joy floods over us as well.

What brings joy to Christ, in the end, are the same things that bring joy to us all. We come to share with Jesus a common enthusiasm.

What Christ delights in is His sacrifice that takes away our sin, and reconciles us to a Holy God, and justifies us, declaring us perfect before God in Christ, and rescues our bodies from sin and death and corruption.

A principle means used by God to fulfill Christ's joy in us, is the miraculous work of the Holy Ghost. By Him we are quickened, who were before dead in our trespasses and sins, and we are brought to faith in our Lord Jesus.

Not stopping with that, God sends the Holy Ghost to indwell every believer, to knit our hearts unto His, to adopt us by His Spirit as His sons.

The Holy Ghost also comforts us, by drawing us to the knowledge of all the things that bring joy to Christ!

On the night He was betrayed, Christ promised that all this would happen.

The God of all comforts not only comforts us by making Christ our high priest forever, with His sacrifice that saves us, His promise to raise us from the dead to everlasting life in glory at the last day.

But God also institutionalizes that comfort, He instantiates that comfort in the Holy Ghost Who indwells all believers.

As Christ promised, we are not left to ourselves, to remember the comfort of God, but the Holy Ghost is actively comforting us, by prompting us to recall how God comforts us, and by instilling in us the fulfilled joy of Christ over us. The Holy Ghost is constantly stirring these things up in our minds and hearts!

All the character of Christ, the Holy Ghost conveys to believers, by taking of Christ, and showing it unto us.

Thus, the Holy Ghost makes a unity with Christ and the Father, by making us to rejoice in the same things – our Lord Jesus' salvation of us by the death that He died.

In fact, if it weren't for the Holy Ghost power working in us, we wouldn't believe the Gospel in the first place! We wouldn't receive the gift of salvation. We wouldn't be filled with joy unspeakable, because we would still be dead in our sins.

But the Holy Ghost works miraculously, to plant in us all the things necessary to instigate the joy and rejoicing of Christ in us. His joy is fulfilled in us by the power of the Holy Ghost.

Because the Holy Ghost dwells within every believer, and works in us faith and knowledge and joy and obedience, our hearts are knit together with Christ's and the Father's, and we are entangled together in love and peace and rejoicing!

As the Spirit of Christ exhorted and promised us in Psalm 40, "Let all those that seek Thee rejoice and be glad in Thee! Let such as love Thy Salvation say continually, the LORD be magnified!"

All of this will continue, until that time when Christ raises us up unto physical perfection at the last day!

No wonder we love to sing those beloved words by D. W. Whittle:

The heav'ns shall glow with splendor,  
But brighter far than they  
The saints shall shine in glory,  
As Christ shall them array,  
But the beauty of the Savior,  
Shall dazzle ev'ry eye,  
In the crowning day that's coming by and by!

Our pain shall then be over,  
We'll sin and sigh no more,  
Behind us all of sorrow,  
And naught but joy before,  
A joy in our Redeemer,  
As we to Him are nigh,  
In the crowning day that's coming by and by.

Oh, the crowning day is coming,  
Is coming by and by,  
When our Lord shall come in "power,"

And "glory" from on high,  
Oh, the glorious sight will gladden  
Each waiting watchful eye,  
In the crowning day that's coming by and by!