

B. The stronger your faith the more the grace of Christ will reign in you.

(Giving thanks practically guarantees the strengthening and the growing of your faith: Psalm 107:22 let us hear from you very soon)

IV. Grace reigns in people who turn God's promises into petitions:

II Samuel 7:25. God fitted David with a grace mind.

A. We can't claim a promise unless we know a promise: Do *as thou has said*.

B. Clinch your place in God's redemptive purpose with this plea/prayer.

1. For the Faint: Isaiah 40:29 Lord do as thou has said
2. For those needing guidance: Proverbs 3:5,6; Psalm 32:8
3. For those needing mercy because you have fallen : Proverbs 28:13
4. For the one coming to Christ: I Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying.
5. For those needing more of Christ's life: I John 2:25
6. For those harassed by cares: I Peter 5:7
7. For those in gloom: Psalm 84:11,12.

B. Your sacrifices?

The Reign of Grace Shows in the Face: 15 November 2019

Romans 5:19-21; Proverbs 15:13-15; 17:22

A merry heart is something you should desire for at least four reasons. It is like medicine to you. It makes you useful. It really gives credibility to your witness. It really hallows God's name.

I. The state of your heart shows in your face*: 15:13.

“Countenance” means *face*. (*not absolutely, this is a *proverb*)

A. See how close a connection there is between body and soul:

1. I Samuel 1:17,18 “...So the woman went her way **and ate**, and **her face was no more sad.**”
2. Acts 6:12,15 “They...seized him, and brought him to the council...And all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, **saw his face as the face of an angel.**”
3. Proverbs 17:22 “...a broken spirit dries the bones.” This is not the broken spirit that God will not despise.

This is describing a brooding spirit that is always looking at the dark side. It affects us like bone cancer. Strength is smothered, spirit is crippled—**our bodies droop** like wilted flowers in a drought.

B. A merry heart heals a diseased nature: “does good like medicine”.

1. It is the opposite of dry bones—brooding over what ifs, and if onlys. Godly sorrow must be wisely measured: II Cor. 2:7.
2. Acts 27:41 “...where the two seas met...the ship ran aground”
We are two dimensional creatures: material/immaterial..body & soul.

We are vulnerable to damage in both—both matter. Some of you are under pressure in both dimensions—two storms meet. What then?

Pursue a merry heart by means of the blood sprinkled mercy seat, *and by means of your holiday festivities*—you can make them merry.

3. What this proverb teaches is that the thoughts and attitude of the heart are more important than our circumstances.

II. The more you know about the reign of grace the more merry your heart will be: 15:15-17.

A. The reign of grace in picture form: "Here are the sources of the merry heart—*fear of the Lord* (vs.16) and *love to man* (vs.17).

And here also is *the continual* feast (15), so satisfying, the the saint's *little* is better than the worldling's all.

"He is wealthy that is contented." Charles Bridges

B. The reign of grace in doctrinal form: Romans 5:17,19-21.

A "reign" is the exercise of dominance or widespread influence; The exercise of power. There is such a thing as being "strong in grace which is in Christ Jesus"; grace dominates the life.

In Romans 5--*four reigns*: 1. death reigned: 5:14 2. Sin has reigned: 5:21 3. Even so might grace reign: 5:21 4. Those...will reign: 5:17.

C. Characteristics of the reign of sin: W/O a personal grasp of the reign of sin there is no reign of grace. Union w/ Adam is in view.

The fall of man is a complete fall.

1. He disregarded God's *great goodness*: God on Adam. Genesis1:31
2. He rejected *the truthfulness, or "veracity"* of God: "need not mind what He says--better off not believing what he says."
3. He rejected *God's authority* which clearly forbid the deed saying, "thou shalt not eat thereof".
4. He invaded *the rights* of God, or *the prerogatives* of God, things that God alone has the right to do. "Every man now tends to do that which is right in his own eyes."

5. He blamed God: the women you gave me. God is most blamed.

"Adam begot sons and daughters in his own fallen likeness" *who continue to be like him*.

D. How the law functions--came along side the existing situation; a whole race of sinners.

It came from God as a diagnostic tool; like an MRI or a CT scan shows the tumors, cancers, etc....

1. **How God sees the race: Inclusion, stylistic device in Biblical literature: Leviticus 10:2 -16:1** The sinfulness of Man is so deep it can't be deeper.

reasons for giving the law: (a) increase knowledge of sin: (b) increase guilt of sin--by revealing its true nature--rebellion against God (c) reveal a sense of hopelessness--Romans 7:9 sin revived--provoked more sin.

III. How God's Grace Reigns. **It abounded by displacing the former reigning power--providing purity and ability.**

A The provisions of grace are ample.

1. The Lord Jesus Christ entered into the race to remove the grounds of your condemnation.
2. A new destiny; perfectly righteous people don't go to Hell.
3. A new life; equip with a new nature. The Holy Spirit lives in a true believer today as surely as Jesus dwelt in Galilee, Bethany, or Jerusalem.
4. A Bible full of bright promises.