Lownes Free Church Sunday Morning – December 15, 2019

**Advent:**

**Celebrating the coming of Jesus**

 JOY: The Soul’s Eternal Satisfaction

 Or, Why the Water of Life Leaves No Aftertaste

John 4:13, 14 (NIV84) Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

John 7:37, 38a On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this He meant the Spirit. . .

Habakkuk 3:17, 18

 Though the fig tree does not bud And there are no grapes on the vines,

 Though the olive crop fails And the fields produce no food,

 Though there are no sheep in the pen And no cattle in the stalls,

 Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

Luke 2:10, 11 “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ, the Lord.”

 God is happy and we are created in His image with the built-in desire to be happy. The problem is not the quest for joy, but its object, that is, WHAT we desire (because we think it will bring joy). Our delight in a thing or a person eventually is extinguished when what we desire is temporary, self-destructive, or out of reach. Joy and satisfaction are inseparably linked.

 Once we understand this, Jesus’ words about living water make sense, and we can begin to delight in a God who never disappoints, always is present, and forever wills our good. So, what are the proper objects of the Christian’s delight?

**God is the highest possible good. Therefore. . .**

 **We rejoice in His Person, the source of Joy.**

 1 Chronicles 16:8-13, 25-27; Psalm 67:4; 104:34

**We worship God, and delight to be with Him, so. . .**

 **We rejoice in His Presence for all occasions.**

 Deuteronomy 14:22-27; 16:9-12; Psalm 16:11; 21:6

**We know He is the source of all blessings, so. . .**

 **We rejoice in His Plan and Provision (“good or bad”).**

 Psalm 65:9-13; 92:1-4; Isaiah 51:3, 11; Jas.1:2; 1 Peter 4:13

**We acknowledge our need for salvation, so. . .**

 **We rejoice in His Protection.**

Psalm 5:11, 12; 9:14; 20:5; 63:7; 70:4; 71:23; Luke 1:46, 47; Romans 5:2, 3, 11

**We are made wise and hopeful by all God says, therefore. . .**

 **We rejoice in His Promises and Proclamations.**

 Nehemiah 8:9-12; Psalm 19:8; 119:24, 111, 112; Jeremiah 15:16; Philippians 1:18

**We love those whom God loves, therefore. . .**

 **We rejoice in His People.**

 Isaiah 65:18, 19; Jeremiah 32:41; Zephaniah 3:17; Philippians 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:19, 20

***The Lesson of Advent Joy:***

Because God is happy, He created His children

to be happy in Him and one another

for all He is and Has done to secure our salvation.

Isaiah 55:1, 2, 18; John 6:35

What is your greatest joy?