

The Delights Of God

Introduction. Today we are going to examine some of the delights of the Lord. The word "delight" means satisfaction. It is the opposite of pained or offended. God approves of the actions of these kinds of people and He bestows favor upon them. Jeremiah 9:24 says, "But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord." This is by no means all the places in the wisdom literature where it is said that God delights, but these are a few for our meditation and consideration.

I. ***God Delights In Our Prosperity (Psalm 35:27)***

- A. We sometimes think that perhaps God enjoys afflicting His servants and that He delights in sending disaster, but this is not the character of God. God delights in the prosperity of His servants.
- B. This is a psalm of judgment -- a psalm of terror. David had enemies who planned and wished his ruin. He called upon the Lord to relieve him. He then prays that those who favored him might be exuberantly joyous, and that they might bless God who desires prosperity to His servants.
- C. God's delight in our prosperity demonstrates three important points:
 1. God's interest in our existence.
 2. God's goodwill toward our state.
 3. God's willingness to help.
- D. True prosperity is spiritual prosperity manifested in different ways:
 1. A love of worship.
 2. An appreciation of spiritual realities.
 3. An increasing delight in service to God.
 4. An increasing development of Christ-like character.
- E. God's ideal of prosperity is found in 3 John 1-2. The more we magnify and glorify God in words, deeds, examples, character and sacrifice, the more we will delight God and the more He will delight in us.

II. ***God Delights In Hope (Psalm 147:11)***

- A. The fear of God and mercy go hand-in-hand with each other. We should be a people who cultivate a deep sense of hopefulness. To cultivate hopefulness, we need to understand that with God, nothing is impossible (Matthew 19:26).
- B. This verse is not saying that God delights in those who vaguely hope that it will be all right in the end, nor does it say that God delights in those who hope to avert final destruction in the judgment (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). Both of these ideas are clearly against the scriptures.

- C. We have two matters for which to hope:
 1. We can hope for mercy or compassion. We have the wonderful blessing of being able to look to God in seasons of distress and grief (2 Kings 19:14-19). The Lord will never abandon those who are seeking Him (Hebrews 13:5; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10).
 2. We can hope for the fulfillment of God's promises. With Jesus, we have the hope of eternal life and a spiritual resurrection (Colossians 1:5, 23, 27; Titus 1:2; 2:13; 3:7; Hebrews 6:18-20).
- D. We have three objects which encourage our hope:
 1. We have God's word. His word is fixed and unalterable. If the word of God declares that we have hope, we can be assured that the Christian has hope (Romans 15:4, 13; Lamentations 3:18-26).
 2. We have God's church. The church displays the manifold wisdom of God (Ephesians 3:10). No one can have access to the saving blood of Christ without going through God's steps to salvation. After that, we are added to the Lord's body (Acts 2:47), where we serve the rest of our days in hope of eternal life.
 3. We have God's blessings. The Lord blesses each of us everyday (James 1:17-18). We are so fortunate to be richly blessed with both spiritual and material blessings. The blessings keep us focused on the future for greater blessings in eternity.

III. ***God Delights In His People (Psalm 149:4)***

- A. This verse explains why God has made such tremendous sacrifices for us (John 3:16). This is a strong expression of Fatherhood. What father would not take great pleasure in his children? The Lord is the same.
- B. Scripture records reasons why the Lord wants to delight in His people:
 1. They bear His name (Acts 11:26; 1 John 3:1).
 2. They bear His image (2 Peter 1:4; Romans 8:29).
 3. They are zealous for the Lord's glory (John 5:44; Philippians 3:20-21).
 4. They were purchased by His blood and redeemed by His power (Acts 20:28).
 5. They bring forth fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).
 6. They worship God in beauty and holiness (Psalm 29:2; 96:9).
- C. As we consider what God has done for us, we can only express sentiments like those who were victorious after they fought the beast (Revelation 15:4).

IV. ***God Delights In Uprightness (Proverbs 11:20)***

- A. There continues to be a crying need for those who are upright (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4, 7; 1 Timothy 4:8). The Lord demands that we are godly and appropriate in our conduct.

- B. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 5:17 that if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. As new creatures we are called to live with a higher code of ethics and morals than the world (Romans 6:11-14; Colossians 3:5). God delights in seeing His children obey these standards of godliness.
- C. It is truly precious and uplifting to see Christians holding fast to their integrity and godliness in the midst of temptation and doubt. Let us not follow the world's morality with the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; cf. Matthew 5:4).

V. *God Delights In The Truthful (Proverbs 12:22)*

- A. We have here a delight of the Lord we usually think only suitable for children. Many mothers have wondered who taught their little ones to lie (Psalm 58:3). It is true that children need such an exhortation, but so do we. You see, man is blessed by the ability to communicate with one another. However, lying has always been easy.
- B. The band that ties society together is honesty. Deceit and falsehood are uncharacteristic of God. The very heart and soul of religion is sincerity. Lying introduced sin into the world (Genesis 3:4). There is hardly any form of wickedness against which God has spoke so often and so strongly in the Bible as lying (Ephesians 4:25; Colossians 3:9; Revelation 21:8, 27; 22:15).
- C. The father of lies is Satan, who abides not in the truth (John 8:44). Lying is completely opposite of the character of God (Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:2). He is the God of truth and we must tell the truth to be like Him (Isaiah 63:8).

VI. *God Delights In Our Prayers (Proverbs 15:8)*

- A. Here we have a proverb very appropriate for meditation. Not only is a prayer offered to God acceptable, but it is His delight!
- B. Characteristics of pleasing prayer:
 1. Prayer must be offered in faith (Matthew 21:22; James 1:5-8).
 2. Prayer must be offered with a spirit of humility (Psalm 34:18; Luke 18:9-14).
 3. Prayer must be offered in harmony with God's will (1 John 5:14; Luke 22:42).
 4. Prayer must be offered by the righteous (James 5:16-18; 1 Peter 3:12).
 5. Prayer must be offered in a spirit of thanksgiving (Ephesians 5:20; Philippians 4:6).
 6. Prayer must be offered with persistence (Luke 11:5-10; 2 Corinthians 12:7-8).

7. Prayer must be offered in the name of Jesus (Ephesians 5:20; Hebrews 4:14-16).
- C. The obstacles to pleasing prayer:
1. Our unconfessed sin (Psalm 66:18). The basis for prayer rests upon our being in fellowship with Him; this fellowship is broken if we do not confess our sins!
 2. Our improper treatment of others:
 - a) E.g., how we treat the poor (Psalm 41:1-3).
 - b) E.g., how one treats his friend (Matthew 5:23-24).
 - c) E.g., how a husband treats his wife (1 Peter 3:7).
 3. We must correct our relationships with others (if possible) before we can expect God to hear our prayers (Matthew 6:14-15; 18:21-23)!
- D. The sacrifices of the wicked are an abomination because the object of the worship is wrong, but the feeblest cry of His own are a delight. How poor our prayers often are!

Conclusion. So we see that God delights Himself in many matters related to His children. God is not some stern judge awaiting in heaven for us to fail. He loves us and delights in us doing well. I pray that we will always delight ourselves in the Lord (Psalm 37:4; 40:8; John 8:29). If you are ready to delight in the offer of salvation, please come now (Isaiah 55:1-3).