

How to Enjoy Your Own Salvation

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. So many professed Christians seem to believe that to be truly spiritual, one must wear a sad expression; otherwise, he is being frivolous and irreverent.
 - 1. For some reason, we equate frowns with morality.
 - 2. Isa. 43:1-7
 - 3. The prophet reminds the people of God that though they may be scattered to the four ends of the earth, He will gather every one of them home to share His glory
- B. You can enjoy your salvation because you have:

I. A PAST

- A. Isa. 43:1, 3-4
- B. Most of us would just as soon forget our pasts; we all have things to be embarrassed about.
- C. But God has done three things for us in the past that makes the present a matter over which to rejoice
 - 1. Redemption - Rev. 1:5; 1Peter 1:18-19
 - a. We are saved because 2,000 years before we were even born, the Lord Jesus willingly died for our salvation.
 - 2. Renewal - Eph. 4:22-24; 2Cor. 5:17
 - 3. The Lord changes everything He touches: lepers, the blind, the deaf, the dead, etc. He takes what we give Him and when He gives it back, it is far better than it was when He got it.
 - a. Give Him an acorn and He will give back a mighty oak.
 - b. Give Him Abram, son of a pagan, and He will give back Abraham, a mighty man of faith.
 - c. Give Him Jacob, a schemer and a trickster, and He will give back Israel, Prince with God.
 - d. Give Him Saul of Tarsus, a cruel fanatic, and He will give back Paul, mighty apostle of Christ
 - e. Give Him your broken, sin-scarred life and He will give you back a new beginning, a new life and a home in Heaven
 - f. What we were called: lost, children of the devil, sinners, the wicked, children of wrath
 - g. What we are called now: Saints, Children of God, The Redeemed, Saved, Citizens of Heaven
 - h. When we think of what we were in the past and what Jesus has made us in the present, it ought to cause us to enjoy our salvation
 - 3. Reception - 1Cor. 6:20; 2Tim. 2:13
- D. When we consider where we have come from to where we are today, we should be greatly encouraged
 - 1. Isa. 51:1; Eph. 2:11-13

II. A PROVIDER

- A. Isa. 43:2
- B. God reminded Israel that He met their needs from the beginning
 - 1. Pass through the waters - The Red Sea - Ex. 14:10-16
 - 2. Pass through the river - The crossing of the Jordan - Joshua 4
 - 3. Walk through the fire - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego - Daniel 3.
- C. What does this mean for us? God has not changed. What He did for Israel, He can be counted on to do for us - Phil. 4:19.
- D. There are several reasons why we can count on God to supply us.
 - 1. He is able - Eph. 3:20
 - a. In clothing Israel in the wilderness - Deut. 29:5
 - b. In feeding Israel Manna in the wilderness - Ex. 16 - estimated at approximately 240 box car loads of Manna per day for a multitude of that size
 - c. In feeding the widow of Zarepath and Elijah for 3 1/2 years - 1Kings 10:10-17.
 - d. In feeding the 5,000 - John 6 - 5000 men + families + apostles + 12 baskets remaining = 6 1/4 tons of bread and fish generated from 10 ounces of food (if they only ate a small 10 oz. meal, which they did not - John 6:11)
 - 2. He is willing - Luke 12:32; Matt. 6:30-33
 - 3. He keeps His word - Heb. 6:17-18
 - 4. He is always near - Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5
- E. Whatever the need, God will take care of it. We should enjoy our salvation and learn to leave the worrying to Him - Phil. 4:6-7

III. A PROMISE

- A. Isa. 43:5-7
- B. God reminds His people that they have a bright future. He promises to gather them together and bring them back to their promised land.
 - 1. There will be a gathering - 1Cor. 15:51-52; 1Thes. 4:13-18; Matt. 24:36
 - a. Be ready - Matt. 24:44
 - b. Be looking - Luke 12:37
 - c. Be pure - 1John 3:3
 - d. Be telling - Mark. 16:15
 - 2. There will be glory; God will bring glory to Himself by bringing us into His glory
 - a. We are heaven bound - John 14:3; Rev. 21:4; 1Cor. 2:9
 - b. We will be glorified - 1John 3:1-2
 - c. We will see him and be with him forever - Col. 3:4; Isa. 56:5

Conclusion:

- A. We have every reason to enjoy our salvation
 - 1. God saved us in the past.
 - 2. God provides for us in the present.
 - 3. God has a wonderful plan for our future.