

This is the Day that the Lord has Made...

We are used to hearing people quote Psalm 118:24 –

This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.

It's the usual mantra used by Christians who want to psyche themselves up to face the drudgery or problems of every-day life. This is what their church teachers and preachers have told them to do.

Actually, Psalm 118 is a Passover psalm. So when Israelis recited it in Old Testament days and those who recite it on Passover today, they are actually saying, "Passover Feast Day is the day which the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be excited about it because our God rescued us from Egyptian slavery".

Therefore, Christians quoting this verse today and claiming it as a direct statement by God to everyone that we are to rejoice in this day is a misapplication of the verse. It's an example of the 'clipboard approach'¹ where we find and use isolated proof texts in scripture without considering the cultural and situational context of the verse(s) in the original document.

If, however, the Spirit draws a person's attention to this verse and gives it to them as a *rhema* word for the purposes of encouraging them to get out of their doldrums, then it is appropriate to use this verse as a 'boost'. However, this is only appropriate for that person at that time, and cannot be quoted and used as a spiritual 'get well pill'. Again, however, a person should rejoice in every day any way to honour the King who gave it to them.

The reason why this verse is a 'must quote' for survival is because the church has taught, either directly or by inference, that life is about fulfilling our religious duty to God – and he's a hard taskmaster. We must pray, read the bible, fast, control ourselves, defeat sin, bring our flesh into submission to our spirit, go to meetings every Sunday, attend mid-week meetings, tithe, witness, take communion, put on a façade of godliness even though we're 'miserable sinners', etc, etc. The world is evil, we are told, and our eyes must be on heaven – so all we want to do is get out of this place.

So what's the Kingdom way of approaching each day?

Firstly, life in the Kingdom is an adventure, not a drudgery. Secondly, when religion is taken out of the equation, life in the Kingdom has freedom and liberty. And lastly, when we have an intimate relationship with King Jesus we love being in his presence all day long, no matter what the day is like.

One Kingdom way of looking at each day is that it is a gift – yes, a GIFT! Every day we have the opportunity to partner with heaven to do Father's will here on Earth. We have the satisfaction that our life is making an impact for the Kingdom in this 'evil world'. We have immense enjoyment and pleasure - we enjoy Father's blessings, his favour, his forgiveness, his succour, his gifts. We have the pleasure of knowing that we bring pleasure to our Bridegroom King and we bask in the pleasure of his love as we tangibly receive it.

Another Kingdom way of looking at each day is that we are now living in the restoration of the life Adam had before the Fall. Originally, Adam was a son of God, spirit-filled, and in intimate relationship with his maker. Since the release of the Spirit in the New Covenant, we are in this same

¹ - See Frank Viola, (2012) "Pagan Christianity?" (revised And updated) Barna Books

relationship. We are part of the restoration of all things, so why not rejoice in every day and thank our creator that we are part of this movement towards complete restoration. What a joy and a privilege to be part of this process.

Let's enjoy each day and have righteous enjoyment and pleasure in each one of them.

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