

Introduction: I always hesitate to preach a sermon like this because it so often does the opposite of what is intended. Those that need it often throw it aside with hard hearts and those who don't need it sorrow and mourn, because their hearts are tender. But it is the word of God, and I must preach it with clarity and boldness and the Holy Spirit will bring truth to the heart as He wills.

I also want you to know that the best sermons are those who first of all attach themselves to the one who preaches, for those that tread out the corn must be first partakers of the harvest; the ox must not be muzzled, and this poor ox needs very much to feed on the corn that is trodden this morning. This sermon deals with the human condition before God and it is applicable to every one of us here today. I am talking to Christian people today, to those who have been justified by faith in Jesus Christ. If you are not a Christian, if you do not have the Holy Spirit, this will probably seem like a bunch of foolishness to you.

READ PSALM. There are three things this morning: The joyful sound, in Verses 1-2. Second, the Joy of the Lord when there is no Guile. Vs. 3-7 Third, the Joy of the Lord in Understanding. Vs. 8-9

I. The Joyful Sound: Justification by Faith. Vs. 1,2

A. See Romans 4:1-8. The joyful sound of sins forgiven and put away. Psalm 89:1-16

B. David: Psalm 32. This passage. The Lord will not impute sin. This is such an important part of the Gospel. This is the joyful sound. It is announced to the world: Free forgiveness of sins, on the basis of faith.

C. See Ephesians 2:4-10 Because of His great love. Amen and Amen.

## II. The Joy of the Lord: No Guile, Deceit, or Sloth Vs. 3-7

A. But the quickening may involves some pain. “In whose spirit there is no guile,” is descriptive, not a condition. Being without guile is part of the blessing.

B. What is guile: AV-deceitful 4, deceitfully 3, deceit 2, slothful 2, false 1, guile 1, idle 1, slack 1; 15

1. **Deceit** 12 What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good?
  - a. 13 Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.
  - b. 14 Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.
  - c. 1Th 2:3 For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile:
  - d. 1Pe 2:1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,
2. **Subtilty**: Ac 13:10 And said, O full of all subtilty <1388> and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?
3. **Deceit**: Ro 1:29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit <1388>, malignity; whisperers,
4. **Craft**: [construction] Mr 14:1 After two days was the feast of the passover, and of unleavened bread: and the chief priests and

the scribes sought how they might take him by craft <1388>, and put him to death.

5. **Sloth:** Pr 10:4 He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich. Pr 26:16 The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.

C. The fruit of justification is the gift of the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:8-14, The Spirit of Truth confronts the guile of the Flesh. A most serious conflict ensues. The more the child of God comes into contact with the Scriptures, the more intense the conflict is. A conflict that will continue all your life, for your sinful heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, and can be overcome only by the putting to death of the old man and walking in the new life in Christ. Put off the old and put on the new.

- D. This putting off is very hard. Ps. 32: There are four considerations:
1. Keeping silence is deadly. 3,4
  2. Acknowledgement of sin is the relief. 5. This is where the joy of the Lord begins. Confession.
  3. This is the work of the godly: vs. 6
  4. This is the hiding place of the saint: in the mercy and grace of God, by faith. Vs. 7

III. There is more: The joy of the Lord in Understanding. Being Taught by God.

- A. The eye, the counsel of the Lord is with His elect. Ps. 33:18: Ps 33:18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy.

- B. The Lord will teach us His commandment. We will know what we ought to do. Then we must do it.
- C. We are not like the horse or the mule which have no understanding. You are a man, a woman, you are not to be a child, but are to grow up into Christ and understand what you are to do.
- D. Ephesians 4: 11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight [dicers] of men, and cunning craftiness [bad sense, clever crafted structure to deceive] [mental straying], whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:
- E. This understanding is primarily through the preaching of the Gospel. The work of the ministry by apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Paul is very clear that this is the prupose for these gifts to the church: that we grow up. Not be tossed around like dice.
- F. It is only in this understanding that we escape the deceitfulness of sin. Heb 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Conclusion and Application. Christian Maturity: Adult responsibility  
Vs. 10, 11. Difficulty: to convince you that you deceive yourself and  
you gather together evidence to conceal and hide yourself from God.  
Yes, a justified person does this.

What will convince you of this: Only one thing: the Holy Scripture.  
Hebrews 4:

12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any  
twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit,  
and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and  
intents of the heart.

13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all  
things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to  
do.