

MAKING MY PRAYER WITH JOY (Study 5)

Faultless with great Joy

Psalm 92: 1 – 4: Call to Worship; a Psalm and song for the Sabbath day. Natural for the Psalmist to sing to the Lord who creates and sustains, because he was glad; **v 4**, *at the works of your hands I sing for joy*. Hymn by Isaac Watts: *Sweet is the work, my God, my King, -- To Praise Thy Name, give thanks, and sing; -- To show Thy love by morning light, -- And talk of all thy truth at night.*

KJV: *For thou, Lord, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph through the works of thy hands.* A Psalm geared for rest and corporate worship emphasising Creation, tireless Praise and the continued action of God; an obvious response to Psalms 90 & 91. A reflection for both Israel and us in **Zephaniah 3: 14 – 17**. The Scriptures show that Joy and Gladness are consistently related to the whole life of Israel and the Church. The source of Joy emanates from the life and character of God by His Holy Spirit and directs us to eschatological reality and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb; **Revelation 19**.

A pointer from this is the Joy of **Hebrews 12: 2**. This reminds us of the upper room words of Jesus: **John 15: 11** ‘Joy’ and ‘pleasure’ must not be confused: the joy of Jesus is the joy of accomplishing the father’s will and arises from the sense of a finished work; cf. **16: 20 – 22 & 24**. His High Priestly prayer as He speaks to the Father: **John 17: 9 – 17**; **v 13**; *my joy fulfilled in themselves*.

Philemon 4 – 7: *I thank my God always when ...V7; great joy and encouragement = comfort/consolation.* Although Paul had not benefited from Philemon’s ministry, he rejoices that others have and he appreciates such ministry in facing discouragement and even depression in prison. He has been strengthened and encouraged by the grace of God manifested in the life of Philemon.¹

Colossians 1: 3 – 14; verse 11. Divine resources for ministry are always ours in Christ through the Spirit. *Strengthened* = continuous present; no initial fading launch; *His glorious might*.

Eschatological Doxology of **Jude 24 & 25** as a bookend to **verses 1 & 2**. **V21** *keep* = watch, which is our task and the other side to Christian perseverance. So; **V 1**, (Greek order) *loved, kept* = preserved, *called*. **V24**, *without stumbling* = like a sure footed horse; *kept* = His promise (NIV) *without fault and with great joy*; (ESV) *unblemished with exultation*.

¹ H.M. Carson, *Tyndale Commentary*, 1960, 107