

Esther

God's Silent Sovereignty

Remember and Rejoice!

Esther 8-9; Eph. 2:11-19; Rom. 8:1-4, 15-17; 2 Peter 3:1-13

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I. No One Has to Tell Us to Rejoice in Good News

Esther 8:15-17 “Then Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal robes of blue and white, with a great golden crown and a robe of fine linen and purple, and the city of Susa shouted and rejoiced. ¹⁶The Jews had light and gladness and joy and honor. ¹⁷And in every province and in every city, wherever the king’s command and his edict reached, there was gladness and joy among the Jews, a feast and a holiday...”

They’ve gone from fasting to feasting as news of their deliverance ripples out from the palace!

The Hebrew root word for “joy” is “samach.” It’s used 100 times in the Bible and 10 of them are found right here in these chapters.

This Hebrew word “samach” is characterized by three elements:

- It’s a spontaneous emotion.
- It’s prompted by an event or activity around you or outside of you.
- The emotion is so strong it has to be expressed outwardly.

We’re given to spontaneous eruptions and struggle to sustain or maintain any level of real joy that’s rooted in something more than a powerful emotion.

II. Good News Starts to Fade Unless You Know How to Remember

Esther 9:20-21, 28 “And Mordecai recorded these things and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, ²¹obliging them to keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same, year by year... ²⁸that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, in every clan, province, and city, and that these days of Purim should never fall into disuse among the Jews, nor should the commemoration of these days cease among their descendants.”

Human beings have a track record of celebrating big and then in no time at all, living as if it never happened.

“When you actually remember God, you do not sin. The only way we ever sin is by suppressing God, by forgetting, by tuning out His voice, switching channels, and listening to other voices. When you actually remember, you actually change. In fact, remembering is the first change.”

~ David Powlison, *Making All Things New*

What do we have today to help us remember and to keep on rejoicing?

A. He Gave us His Word

He gave us His Word:

- To remember who you were
- To remember who you are
- To remember what He's done
- To remember what's to come

You've got to hit pause on this noisy, right-here-right-now world and take time to read His Word, so that you'll know what's true and lasting in a world filled with lies, novelty, and frivolity.

"We live in an age of constant novelty...our digital feeds filter reality to us in short bursts of *what's happening now*: breaking news headlines, trending videos, the latest meme. But all of it is fleeting and disposable. The past and the future are out of sight and mind. This is not a recipe for wisdom. It's a recipe for whiplash as we're tossed to and fro between the latest (and almost instantly outdated) philosophy, fashion, or fad."

~ Brett McCracken, *The Wisdom Pyramid*

1. He Gave Us His Word to Remember Who You Were and Who You Are Now

See Ephesians 2:11-19 and 1 Timothy 1:12-17

2. He Gave Us His Word to Remember What He's Done

See Romans 8:1-4, 15-17

3. He Gave Us His Word to Remember What's to Come!

See 2 Peter 3:1-14

Do you live with any longing or sense of expectation for what's coming next?

B. He Gave Us the Lord's Supper

One of the main purposes of the Lord's Supper is to remember and to keep the reality of what Jesus did for us on the front burner of our hearts.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 "For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, ²⁴and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, 'This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.' ²⁵In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.' ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."