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AN OUTREACH OF RICHARD HUGHES MINISTRIES, INC.

THE PEN OF A READY WRITER

...I SPEAK OF THE THINGS WHICH I HAVE MADE TOUCHING THE KING:
MY TONGUE IS THE PEN OF A READY WRITER (PSALM 45:1).

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THE JOY OF THE LORD

The children of Israel wept when they had heard the words of the law read on the first day of the seventh month. Then Nehemiah and Ezra and the Levites that taught the people said, *Mourn not, nor weep. This day is holy unto the LORD your God. Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength* (Nehemiah 8:9-10).

The Levites stilled all the people, and they went their way to make great mirth *because they understood the words that were declared unto them* (Nehemiah 8:12). David understood God's words; and, in his darkest hour, he knows the cost his sin has claimed. He cries out, *Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and, uphold me with thy free Spirit* (Psalm 51:12).

David knew what the hyssop meant, and the blood it applied to the door posts and lintel on that first Passover. He understood that the blood of the sacrifice cleanses us of our sin (Psalm 51:7; Exodus 12:22). God creates a clean heart and renews a right spirit within us. He gives us access to his presence through faith in Jesus Christ; and, he seals us (Ephesians 1:13) and indwells us with his Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16).

We are they which worship God in the spirit and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh (Philippians 3:3). We rejoice in the knowledge that our name is written in heaven (Luke 10:20) because we have believed on the Son. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him (John 3:36).

The Apostle John is moved by God's Spirit to write his three epistles, as well as the gospel account that bears his name and the Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ. In the fifth chapter of John's first epistle, we find this explanation of that letter: *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God* (1 John 5:13).

We are to rest in our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no other gospel (Galatians 1:6-8). There is none other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12). The gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation.



Vickie Wilkerson
Hughes

My Hope is in the Lord

A song that I love is: “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less.” Written by Edward Mote in 1834 and set to music by William Batchelder Bradbury in 1863, the song thrills my heart: My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand. All other ground is sinking sand.

The worst that could ever happen to me may be in the past; the best that can ever happen is yet to come. No matter what, I know I need to keep my eyes on Jesus. I know God is always with me, holding my hand. I know that he is fully aware of every situation that I face daily. Worry and anxiety is not my answer; Jesus is my answer!

As I think about each one of my kids and grandkids, I pray that they will find the peace that I have found in Jesus. He is my Rock of salvation. In Him, I have placed my faith and my trust. As a child of God, the future holds more good than I could ever hope for.

Could the Adoption be a Church Reference?

Someone will immediately think of Romans 9:4, and rightly so. It is to the Israelites the adoption and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the law and the service of God and the promises pertain. The promises were the fathers (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob), of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came.

Israel is described as the natural olive branch, and Gentiles as the wild olive branch (Romans 11:17). Natural offspring need restoration; wild things need adoption. The Adoption, which is the redemption of our literal, physical bodies, comes at what men call the rapture. It is in conjunction with the resurrection of the Church Age saints (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Romans 8:23).

The adoption pertaining to Israel is the last of the things listed in Romans 9:4. Their order is reversed. The promises came first, then the service of God (as in their separating from Egypt that they might hold a feast unto the LORD God in the wilderness [Exodus 5:1]). The giving of the law followed, and the covenants (the O.T. with the law; the N.T. with Christ). Then came the glory: which is Jesus Christ, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14). And, finally, the adoption.

Paul writes to the church at Ephesus: *Ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: but now, in Christ Jesus, ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ* (Ephesians 2:12-13).

He is our peace, who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of partition between us...that he might reconcile both (Jew and Gentile) unto God in one body, by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby (Ephesians 2:14,16). The adoption of Gentiles.

March

March 6th- 8th

Alumni Meeting, Tabernacle Baptist College, Greenville, SC.

March 13th- 16th

Sandhills Jubilee, Highland Baptist Church, Vass, NC.

March 26th- 29th

Mission Conference, Victory Baptist Church, Gaffney, SC.

A MERRY HEART...

Wilma was sharing family photos with Mandy, one of her grand-daughters. Among them was a faded picture of Wilma’s great-grandmother, standing on her front porch.

Wilma asked the little girl, “Do you think I look like her?”

Mandy stared at the photo for a moment, shook her head and replied, “Not yet.”