

Intro

~ Joshua 5:13-15 *And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? 14 And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? 15 And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.*

- ~ This passage teaches not about the Lord being on our side but about us being on the Lord's side
- ~ We want to be on the right side, even if that means things don't go our way
- ~ Billy Sunday, "The world is wrong side up. It needs to be turned upside down in order to be right side up."
- ~ Mark Twain, "Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it's time to pause and reflect."
- ~ During the civil war Abraham Lincoln was asked if God was on his side. His response was, "Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right."
- ~ There's the side of unrighteousness and truth in our verse
- ~ The right side of 1 Cor 13:6 is to rejoice with the truth in the things God's love rejoices with
- ~ We can rejoice in the side of unrighteousness or on the side of truth
- ~ There's two sides here in relationship to love, the side of unrighteousness and the side of truth. Paul tells us which one love rejoices in

Translations

KJV = Rejoices not in iniquity but rejoices in truth

NLT = It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.

CSB = Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth

NIV = Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

JB Philips = doesn't gloat over the wickedness of other people. On the contrary, it is glad with all good men when truth prevails.

- ~ Paul shows us two opposites – unrighteousness and truth. Love doesn't rejoice in unrighteousness but will rejoice with the truth
- ~ The word rejoice "chairō" means full of cheer, happy and glad. The b part of the verse Paul says love rejoices with the truth. Paul uses the same word chairō for rejoice but adds the prefix sun which means love rejoices with.
- ~ ESV says love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.

Last week we spoke about things love doesn't rejoice in. The wrong side rejoices in:

1 Sin 2 Failure 3 Gossip 4 Misfortune 5 Opportunity 6 Revenge 7 Tolerance of Sin

Love Does Rejoice in:

1 Sound Doctrine

2 Biblical Walk

3 Truthfulness

4 People

5 God's use of others

6 Repentance

7 Gospel

Examples of rejoicing in truth

1 sound doctrine

~ Sound doctrine is important because sound doctrine stabilizes the soul. False doctrine leads people to shipwreck and to being tossed to and fro. While love doesn't rejoice in false teachers it doesn't publish the failure of those who may teach false doctrine

~ The pastoral epistles show us the importance of sound doctrine

~ *Titus 2:1-6 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: 2 That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. 3 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; 4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. 6 Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.*

- Sound doctrine has the benefit for 4 groups of people – old men, woman and young woman and men
- Paul also spells out the benefit of each group that sound doctrine will play in their lives

~ Timothy is to teach sound doctrine (1 Tim 1:3); Hymenaeus and Alexander were false teachers who made the faith of some shipwrecked. Paul delivered them over to Satan (1 Tim 1:19,20); Timothy should remind the church of sound doctrine and if he does so Paul says he's a good minister (1 Tim 4:6); sound doctrine also nourishes Timothy's soul (1 Tim 4:6); Timothy should give attendance to reading, exhorting and teaching sound doctrine until Paul arrives at Ephesus (1 Tim 4:13); Timothy is to meditate on sound doctrine (1 Tim 4:15); if a man doesn't consent to sound doctrine he knows nothing (1 Tim 6:4) and Paul says their minds are sick and they like to argue over words. They cause jealousy, disagreements, unkind words, evil suspicions (1 Tim 6:4,5)

~ 2 Tim 1:7 Sound doctrine leads to a sound mind which leads to a sound soul; He is to remind the congregation of sound doctrine (2 Tim 2:14) study sound doctrine (2 Tim 2:15), continue in sound doctrine (2 Tim 3:14); Sound doctrine make us wise to salvation (2 Tim 3:15); sound doctrine is profitable for teaching, reproving, correcting, and training (2 Tim 3:16); sound doctrine make us perfect and equipped for every good work (2 Tim 3:17); Timothy is to preach this sound doctrine (2 Tim 4:2)

~ God's love rejoices in sound doctrine

2 Biblical Walk (2 Jn 4; 3 Jn 3,4)

~ 2 Jn 4 *I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.*

~ 3 Jn 3,4 *For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*

~ The apostle John rejoiced that his readers were walking in truth

~ Walking in truth means were obeying sound doctrine

~ Success in our Christian walk means were obeying the truth

~ Where the rubber meets the road in our Christians walk is obeying the truth

~ God's love rejoices when God's children walk in truth

3 Truthfulness

~ Not dishonest or deceitful for personal advantage

~ A noble character

~ Acts 23:1 *And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.*

1Ti_1:5,19 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

~ Paul and Peter both spoke about having a good conscience – they both use this terminology 5 times

~ It means to believe you've done what God and his word want to be done

~ It doesn't mean that Paul and Peter were perfect but they tried to obey God. No one is perfect but a good conscience means we may not do perfectly all God asks but we try to do what he wants

~ As a husband, father and pastor I haven't done everything perfectly but I do believe I've tried to do my best

~ This is what Paul is saying, he's lived before God with a good conscience

~ Reputations is what people say about us but character is what our spouse and children know about us

~ God's love rejoices when it sees true and noble character

4 People

~ Paul was always giving thanks for people (Philippians, Thessalonians)

~ Phil 1:1-4 *Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: 2 Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,*

~ Col 1:1-4 *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother, 2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints,*

~ 1 Thess 1:1-3 *Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; 3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;*

~ 2 Thess 1:1-3 *Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: 2 Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;*

~ 2 Tim 2:1-3 *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus, 2 To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 3 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;*

~ Paul gave thanks to God for these individuals and churches and when he did so he prayed for them

~ It's easier to pray for people when we give thanks for them

~ To deal with difficult people: pray for them, thank God for them and go out of your way to minister to them

~ God's love rejoices over people

5 When God uses someone else and honors that person

~ Love rejoices when God uses others and we're not jealous

~ Jealousy reveals insecurity and discontentment – King Saul was jealous of David and tried to kill him

~ Jonathan was happy and willing to give over his right to rule to David

~ Jesus trained others so they could be used

~ Paul was glad for God's use of other people

~ He recognized that God used many people in his work in 1 Cor 3:4-10

~ 1 Cor 3:4-10 *For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? 5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? 6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. 8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. 9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. 10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

~ Paul was thankful for the people God used – In Romans 16 Paul mentions 35; Sosthenes (1 Cor 1:1); Timothy (1 Cor 16:10); Apollos (1 Cor 16:12); the house of Stephanas (1 Cor 16:15); Stephanus, Fortunatus and Achaicus (1 Cor 16:17); Timothy (2 Cor 1:1); Titus (2 Cor 8:23,12:18); Barnabas and Titus (Gal 2:1); Timothy (Phil 2:19-24); Ephaphroditus (Phil 2:25-30); Epaphras (Col 1:7-8); [Paul mentions 9 people in Col 4]. Tychicus (Col 4:7,8); Onesimus (Col 4:9); Aristarchus (Col 4:10); Barnabas (Col 4:10); Justus (Col 4:11); Epaphras (Col 4:12); Luke and Demas (Col 4:15); Archippus (Col 4:17); Timothy and Silvanus (1 Thess 1:1; 2 Thess 1:1); Luke and John Mark (2 Tim 4:11); Tychicus (2 Tim 4:12); Carpus (2 Tim 4:13); Prisca, Aquila and Onesiphorus (2 Tim 4:19); Erastus and Trophimus (2 Tim 4:20); Eubulus, Prudens, Linus, Claudia and the brethren (2 Tim 4:21); Titus (Titus); Artemas and Tychicus (Titus 3:12); Zenas the lawyer and Apollos (Titus 3:13); Timothy and Philemon (Phlmn 1); Apphia, Archippus (Phlmn 2); Epaphras (Phlmn 23); Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas <who forsook Paul> (Phlmn 24)

~ God's love rejoices when others are used by God and honored

6 Repentance

~ There's two senses of this word repentance

1. Repentance to salvation
 - a. Lk 15:6 a lost sheep and Lk 15:9 a lost coin pray for boldness to share Christ
 - b. Lk 15:7,10 v7 Jesus said, "In the same way there is more happiness in heaven because of one sinner who turns to God than over ninety-nine good people who don't need to."
 - c. Lk 15:9,10 Then she will call in her friends and neighbors and say, "Let's celebrate! I've found the coin I lost." 10 Jesus said, "In the same way God's angels are happy when even one person turns to him."
2. Repentance from sin for maintaining fellowship with God (2 Cor 7:9)
 - a. Paul rebuked the Corinthians and they repented and Paul rejoiced in that repentance

~ God's love rejoices in repentance

7 when the gospel is preached – Phil 1:18

~ Phil 1:15-18 *Some are preaching about Christ because they are jealous and envious of us. Others are preaching because they want to help. 16 They love Christ and know that I am here to defend the good news about him.*

17 But the ones who are jealous of us are not sincere. They just want to cause trouble for me while I am in jail.

To Live Is Christ 18 But that doesn't matter. All that matters is that people are telling about Christ, whether they are sincere or not. That is what makes me glad. I will keep on being glad,

~ Paul rejoiced that Christ was preached

~ We can share the gospel and rejoice when we do so

~ The early church prayed for boldness to share Christ in Acts 4:29 and then they went and spoke the word with boldness (Acts 4:31)

~ Story when I found a credit card at the gas station

~ Pray for boldness to share Christ

~ God's love rejoices in the preaching of the gospel

Conclusion

~ So many during Hitler's rise and detention of Jews in Europe decided to be on the right side and hid and provided for Jews

~ Oskar Schindler was one of them. He saved the lives of about 1,250 Jews with his factory work. He spent his entire fortune to bribe and buy black market items to keep the SS officers from taking his workers

~ He was on the right side

~ The longer we live and we wait the Lord's return we have opportunity to choose to live in the right side of rejoicing in what love rejoices with

~ Let's not rejoice in the wrong things but rejoice in the right things

~ Let's join with Joshua and recognize we need to be on the Lord's side, and humble ourselves and worship God

~ Instead of asking God to bless us and fix stuff in our life let's be on the Lord's side and rejoice rightly in love

~ C. S. Lewis, "Now is our chance to choose the right side. God is holding back to give us that chance. It won't last forever. We must take it or leave it."