

## Love Rejoices In The Truth

Joe Slater

Immediately after saying that love doesn't rejoice in unrighteousness, Paul wrote that it does rejoice in the truth (1 Corinthians 13:6). This shouldn't surprise us since our God is *"a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He"* (Deuteronomy 32:4).

Paul himself exemplified the love that rejoices in the truth. Though under house arrest in Rome, he continued proclaiming the gospel even to his captors, and he knew other brethren were evangelizing also. Some had corrupt motives, but *"whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice"* (Philippians 1:18). Christ's gospel is truth, and Paul rejoiced in it being preached.

John the apostle also rejoiced in the truth. He told the "elect lady," *"I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father"* (2 John 4). Along the same line he wrote to Gaius, *"I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in the truth"* (3 John 3-4). Christian parents rejoice when children in their earthly families walk in the truth (i.e. obey the gospel and serve God faithfully). Let's rejoice when others we've led to Christ are walking in the truth or, for that matter, any time we see anyone walking in the truth.

The ungodly *"suppress the truth in unrighteousness"* (Romans 1:18). That is, they hold it back, hindering it from advancing. We must promote the truth vigorously and constantly, rejoicing in its progress.

## One Step At A Time

"How much farther?" I asked as Mom and I trudged up the long brick road hill carrying heavy sacks of groceries. I shifted the bag to my other arm so I could wipe off the sweat trickling down my face.

I knew we had another two miles to walk, and I knew what she would say. "Just keep putting one foot in front of the other. We'll make it." She was right. In spite of our weariness, in spite of the stings of sweat bees, and in spite of the load that seemed to grow heavier with each step, we would make it. Her advice has stayed with me through my life.

Why do I keep going, no matter what troubles and sorrows confront me? Because Jesus has made me His own. His love for me renews my love for Him and keeps me going. His promise of having a place to call my own, more beautiful than any house here, spurs me onward.

As I look back, memories haunt me. But I know I must forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead, and I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:13-14).

I will never give up. I will not let Satan have his way with me. With God's help, I will keep marching. One day at a time, each step of life's journey will lead me to my home in heaven. That is where I want to be, with my Lord and Savior who died for me and made me His own.

--Donna Wittlif (Denver, CO)

*Good enough isn't good enough if it can be better.*

*Better isn't good enough if it can be best.*

## How Do You Spell "Cross"?

"SEE"— See Calvary. Don't turn away. I know it's not easy. What is done to Him is shameful. I know. But look closely! See past the spittle. See beyond the blood. There. In His eyes. Friend, that is love. It is love for you! See the nails in His hands and feet, fastening Him to a tree He created for man's use. See love He has for you!

"ARE"—Are you able to see that He bled and died for you? Are you willing to admit you're lost without Him? Are you ready to submit to His will, to obey Him, and to live for Him? Are you prepared for eternity? Are you convinced?

"OH"—Hear His cries of pain and agony. The death of a thousand deaths. Bitter moans of His disciples. The gasp of heaven's angels. The sorrow of a Father for His only begotten Son! The gasps and exclamations of a hateful mob.

"SS"—That's the hiss of the beguiling serpent. The one who is bruising the heel of the perfect One, putting God the Son in the tomb. This is his moment of triumph. Though resurrection will soon spell victory for Christ and hope for man, at the cross the devil must be enjoying his front row seat at Calvary. Doesn't he anger you? Disgust you? Motivate you? Live for Jesus, the Lion of Judah. Don't live for the roaring, devouring lion.

Friends, the cross spells the difference between heaven and hell, hope and hopelessness, joy and sorrow, night and day!

--Author Unknown (via Athens, AL)