

THE JOY OF THE LORD

By Fletcher Duncan

Joy is the result of good feeling, contentment and satisfaction. That there is a measure of joy to be had in the pleasures of the world we admit. What, then, is the difference between the joy to the world and the joy of the Lord?

The joy of the world is dependent on material things often inaccessible to some people. The joy of the world comes from things outside of us. The joy of the world is temporary and can be revived only by the stimulus of greater thrills. Like an opiate the joy of the world demands larger doses of pleasure for results, and between its high places there are some very low places.

The joy of the Lord can be had without material things—it is not dependent on them. The joy of the Lord can ever be abiding—there need be no interval of gloom. The joy of the Lord is regulated by our inner life and is within our control. The joy of the Lord is not a drug but is the result of a healthy Christian experience, with Christ abiding in the heart; it brings no fits of despondency. The joy of the Lord will endure poverty, affliction, persecution, defamation, loss of friends and loved ones; yes, the joy of the Lord will endure even death.

Just remember that the movie is not only thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

A POTENT INFLUENCE

"No human being can come into this world without increasing or diminishing the sum total of human happiness, not only of the present but of every subsequent age of humanity. No one can detach himself from this connection. There is no sequestered spot in the universe, no dark niche along the disk of non-existence, to which he can retreat with his relations to others; where he can withdraw the influence of his existence upon the moral destiny of the world. Everywhere his presence or absence will be felt; everywhere he will have companions who will be better or worse for his influence. It is an old saying, and one of fearful and fathomless import, that we are forming characters for eternity. Forming characters! Whose? Our own or others? Both; and in that momentous fact lies the peril and responsibility of our existence. Who is sufficient for such a thought? Thousands of my fellow beings will yearly enter eternity with characters differing from those they would have carried thither had I never lived. The sunlight of that world will reveal my finger marks in their formations, and in their successive strata of thought and life."—Sel.

THE SECRET OF VICTORY

Keep your early morning watch with God. . . . I know of nothing more helpful than rising early for the adjustment of the spirit, the mind and the body by the Master. He will take our temperature, and save us from being lukewarm—neither cold nor hot. He will see whether our spiritual barometer is rising or falling; and set it for the coming day. Who can estimate the value of such an adjustment? Henceforth, by God's grace, victorious in life and affective in service.—The late Bishop Taylor Smith.

WORDS

The Honorable Luren D. Dickinson, governor of Michigan, who seems to be strongly prejudiced in favor of sobriety and decency, recently quoted the certain prominent woman who advocated drinking among girls. But now Frank Murphy, repudiated governor of Michigan, who is at present a member of the president's official family, speaks in defense of Mrs. Roosevelt. He seems to believe that Governor Dickinson has done a very terrible thing in quoting this woman's deliverance in which she showed greater solicitude for the liquor traffic than for youth. Mr. Murphy does not say that the president's wife was incorrectly quoted.

Well, now, if one says some good and useful thing he ought to be glad to be quoted. He ought to rejoice that the saying makes its appearance again and again. But if one has allied himself with wrong, it is embarrassing to have good people reminded of that alliance.

The more prominent one is, the wider his influence is likely to be, and the more careful he ought to be with his speaking and writing. The only person who can properly indulge in loose and harmful talk is the one who lives like Robinson Crusoe before Friday arrived. If our talk is heard or read by anybody, those words should be good and on the side of good. Talk can be this, whether it is brilliant or not.

The way to stop a bad remark is not to try to keep people from quoting it at some embarrassing time but to keep from saying the thing in the first place. There is at least some truth in Will Carlton's observation:

"Boys flying kites haul in their white-winged birds; You can't do that way when you're flying words.

Thoughts unexpressed may often fall back dead, .

But God Himself can't kill them when they're said." —Free Methodist

WHEN BE A CHRISTIAN?

A little girl once asked her mother, "How old must I be, mother, before I can be a Christian?" Her mother in her turn asked, "How old will you have to be before you love me?" "Why, mother," she replied, "I have always loved you." "How old must you be before you can trust yourself wholly to me and my care?" continued her mother. "I always did; but tell me now what I want to know." "How old will you have to be before you do what I want you to do?" her mother asked. And the little girl, half guessing what her mother meant, whispered, "I can now, without waiting to grow older." Then her mother said: "And so you can be a Christian now. You can love and try to please the One who says, 'Let the little ones come unto me'"—Tarbell's Guide.

HAVE FAITH IN GOD

Times of constant anxiety and stress, such as we are living in, should drive us back upon deeper trust in God. It is in Him, not in any political contrivances, still less in any ephemeral excitements, that our true peace and happiness can be found. Let us be sure that we seek it there, and lead others to find it there.—Archbishop of York.

Temperance Column

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging. Whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.—Prov. 1:20.

WHO IS TO BLAME?

It is a fact beyond question that our nation is tremendously criminal. We have been told that we lead all nations in crime. If this is really so we have much to regret. However, regardless of the fact that much crime fills the land, and that it is to our regret and shame as a nation, we have many good people yet, for which we are justly thankful. If the good people of America could control things there would be a vast difference in the condition of the people in general. It seems that evil-minded, wicked men get things under their control, or get in position to lead things, and as they lead wrong it brings about wrong results as a consequence. Naturally as evil men lead the country we can expect crime as a result. Sinful men as leaders and rulers never make a country moral, honest, godly and spiritual.

Perhaps almost everyone realizes the fact when men commit crime there is a cause for it, and until the cause is removed, crime will continue, and will grow worse and worse. Again it isn't right for men to steal, kidnap, assault, injure their fellows in various ways, commit manslaughter and murder and go free. For instance, a man gets drunk and kills someone by reckless driving, or shoots somebody, or commits some other bad crime outside of murder. All admit that he deserves punishment. If he has murdered someone our laws demand his life as a penalty. He must pay the supreme price for his crime by his own life. But have you stopped to realize that there may be millions of people to blame for his crime? In the first place every man or woman who voted wet are to blame perhaps. Certainly every wet politician who ran for office on a wet ticket is to blame. All are to blame. In the sight of Almighty God who is the most guilty, the man who committed the crime, or those who made it possible for him to commit it? The day of judgment is going to bring men and nations to justice, and will reveal many things people are guilty of that they pass by unnoticed. That strong drink is responsible for the majority of the crime of our country surely goes unquestioned, and all who vote wet and uphold the cursed stuff in any way are to blame, just as the man who commits the crime, is absolutely clear to all who are honest, sincere and willing to think. —Christian Witness.

A COMPREHENSIVE LAW

Thomas Paine, the infidel, of Bordentown, N. J., was passing Dr. Staughton's residence one day as the latter sat on his porch, and after a few remarks said: "What a pity that man has not some comprehensive and perfect rule for the government of his life." The doctor replied, "Mr. Paine, there is such a rule." "Where is it?" queried Paine. The doctor began to quote the words found in Mark 12:30, 31. Abashed and confounded, Paine said: "O, that's in your Bible." He immediately walked away. "It is a suggestive fact that, while infidels have presumed to mock the Law giver, and Him who redeemed us from the curse of the Law, they have never touched the Law itself! The perfection and glory of the Ten Commandments stand before the civilized world unimpeached as a perfect rule of right living."—Selected.