**‘God’s Glorious Gospel: The Righteousness God Requires’ Message #79 – ‘New Motivation’**

**February 11th, 2018**

**Text: Rom. 12:12**

Keith M. Doyle, Lead Pastor

Winnetka Bible Church

**I. Summary:**

**1. Section #1: The Righteousness God Requires (Chap.1:1-3:20)**

* **Theme: God's Holiness In Condemning Sin**

**2. Section #2: The Righteousness Christ Provides (Chap.3:21-6:23)**

* **Theme: God’s Grace in Justifying Sinners**

**3. Section #3: The Righteousness the Spirit Produces (Chap.7:1-8:39)**

* **Theme: God’s Power in Sanctifying Believers**

**4. Section #4: God’s Righteousness in Salvation (Chap.9-11)**

* **Theme: God’s Plan to Save His People**

**5. Section #5 – God’s Righteousness in Service (Chap.12-16)**

* + **Q. *How can we have joyful, steady and prayer-filled lives as life is happening?***
  + **Illus. Acts 16:16-40 – Paul and Silas**
  + **What happened to the heroes of Scripture?**
  + **A mercy and love focus…reading 12:9-21**
  + ***‘Let love be genuine…’* (9)**

1. **God’s Mercy Excites Our Reward, *‘…rejoicing in hope…’* (12a)** 
   1. **A believer’s joy flows from hope**
   * **We have an ‘upward’ motivation**
   * **When we have little…when we have much…(in this life)**
   * **Phil. 4:4, *‘Rejoice in the Lord always’* - written from prison**
   1. **What ‘joy’ is not…and what it is? (Piper)**
   * **It’s not personality or temperament**
   * **It’s not ‘happier’ circumstances**
   * **It’s not a phony or superficial cover-up…*’sorrowful, yet always rejoicing’* (2 Cor.6:10)**
   * **Romans 5:2 – it’s the ‘joy’ of hope (c/f 1 Peter 1:3-5)**

* **Apply: Ask God for Jesus’ joy (c/f Heb.12:1-3, *‘joy set before Him…consider Him…’***

1. **God’s Mercy Enables Our Resolve, *‘…patient in tribulation…’* (12b)** 
   1. **Word studies *‘tribulation’* = crushing pressure; *‘patience’* = remain steadfast, bear up under**
   * **Putting this together: When life’s pressures come you bear it stand your ground in it - Notice he doesn’t say it won’t come or ask God to take it away…**
   * **Connecting the two – *‘rejoicing in hope’* is how you *‘persevere in tribulation’***

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   1. **Steadfast (in trial) as we serve others**
   * **Jesus prepared us (c/f Matt.10:25; Lk.14:27)**
   * **Good news and suffering – the call of Christ is both**

* **Apply: ‘Fighting’ for joy as we cling to Christ and His promises**

1. **God’s Mercy Emboldens Our Rogation, *‘…constant (devoted) in prayer…’* (12c)** 
   1. **Trials drive us to devoted prayer**
   * **Paul Miller, *“If you know that you, like Jesus, can’t do life on your own, then prayer makes complete sense….prayer is bringing your helplessness to Jesus.”***
   * ***‘Constant’* = to be strong towards something (lean in, 1 Tim.2:8)**
   * **The God who poured our mercy…won’t abandon in trials (Ps. 23:4)**
   * **The call of Ps. 62:8**
   1. **The Call of Service drives us to devoted prayer**
   * **Trashing relationships or being devoted to prayer?**
   * **Being specific in prayer; How ‘long’ should we persevere in prayer?**

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