

LWML *Texas* District

October 10

Meditation

God Rejoices in Doing Good

“Behold, I will gather them from all the countries to which I drove them in my anger and my wrath and in great indignation. I will bring them back to this place, and I will make them dwell in safety. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul” (Jeremiah 32:37-41).

The setting: God’s chosen people, the Hebrews, had fallen away from Him yet again. They chased after the false idols of the people they had been told to destroy. They intermarried with those who did not follow His ways. They turned from Him. As it says in the passages above from Jeremiah, in God’s wrath He sent them into slavery. He makes a promise to them — He will be their God. He will give them one heart, one way. He will not turn from doing good to them. He will rejoice in doing them good.

Often present-day Christians will look at the ancient Jewish people in the Bible and say, “I cannot believe they fell away! They were so stupid! Didn’t they know what they were doing?” Well, what about us? Do we not also have God’s law written on our hearts (Romans 2:14-15)? Gentiles have it written on our hearts as evidenced by our conscience, yet we opt to ignore it regularly. We have a tendency to do what we want instead of what God desires.

In Jeremiah we see that God’s promise isn’t just for the current generation. God’s promises are for future generations too. He delights in doing good for us! Have you ever made someone proud? Someone who rejoiced over your accomplishments. We like to be recognized for our hard work. Do you think God rejoices with us when we have great accomplishments for Him?

We know that it is only by the power of the Holy Spirit that we are able to say Jesus is Lord (1 Corinthians 12:3). We also know that He enables us to share our faith through the Holy Spirit. God has set up boundaries, in the Law, for our good. He also knows how we struggle. He does not leave us in our struggle. He will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear. He will give us a way out from this temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13).

More than anything we can know that God delights in doing good for us and future generations. We can see how the best thing God has done for us is sending Jesus to live perfectly, die on our behalf, and rise again to redeem us.

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