

Wholly taken up with contriving methods of *amusing* themselves!

Concerning the performing of 'Handel's Messiah' John Newton wrote:

How shall we view the people of our times? I see the great mass of people involved in one common charge of *high treason against the omnipotent God!* They are already in a state of *guilt*—but have not yet been brought to their *trial*. The evidence against them is so plain, strong and pointed, that there is not the least doubt of their guilt being fully proved—and that nothing but a free pardon from God can preserve them from their deserved eternal punishment!

In this situation, it would seem in their best interest to avail themselves of every expedient in their power for obtaining God's mercy. But they are entirely heedless of their imminent danger, and are wholly taken up with contriving methods of *amusing* themselves—that they may pass away their short time on earth with as much levity as possible!

Among other resources, they call in the assistance of *music*—and they are particularly pleased with the performing of '*Handel's Messiah*'. They choose to make . . .

the solemnities of their impending judgment,
the character of their Judge,
the methods of His procedure, and
the dreadful punishment to which they are exposed,
the themes of their musical entertainment!

And, as if they were quite unconcerned in their upcoming judgment—their attention is chiefly fixed upon the *skill of the composer*, in adapting the style of his music to the very solemn subjects with which they are trifling!

The offended King, however, unasked by them, and out of His great mercy and compassion towards those who have no pity for themselves—sends them a gracious message. He assures them that He is unwilling that they should eternally perish; and that He *requires*—yes, He *entreats* them to submit to Him! He points out a way in which He offers them a free and a full pardon!

But, instead of taking a single step towards a compliance with His undeserved and gracious offer—they *set His message to music!* And this, together with a description of their present hopeless state, and of the fearful doom awaiting them if they continue obstinate—is *sung for their entertainment*, and accompanied with every kind of music!

Surely, if such a case as I have supposed could be found in real life, though I might admire the musical taste of these people—I would certainly commiserate their stupidity and hardness of heart!

Today is February 18, 2024

Sovereign Grace

Missionary Baptist Church

*"Where the Truths of God's Word Have Been Taught
for Sixty-Two Years" Since October 21, 1961*

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••Our Prayer List••

"Pray without ceasing." 1 Thess. 5:17

Sister Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son's Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Daughter Shannon, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Ted O'Bonion, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Tyler Castle, Danny Mollette, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ricky Henderson and Family, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Jerry Hughes, Shirly King - Son David - and family, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Little Weslynn McClelland, Adrienne Lavina, Pastor Nathan Hille and Sister Cassie and his family, Baby Titus Massey, Shane and Brook Sims, Ricky Bennett, Nick, Madison, and Baby Emory Patty, Bill Gossett, and Russell York, Brother Medic, Sister Mhalyn Lavina and children.

••Pray For Our Church Supported Mission Works••

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8

Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan in Thailand, Elder Raul and the Printing work Romania, and the Berea Baptist Banner Mantachie, Ms.

"A Message from Pastor Johnson"

"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof..." 1st Peter 5:2

The Sovereignty of God.

Ecclesiastes 3:14 "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. (15) That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past."

If you do not know, understand, or you are maybe confused about the Sovereignty of God, you need to study these two verses. While the nature of man is limited and imperfect the very nature of God is completely opposite. Everything about God is perfection, while sometimes man thinks of himself this way, they are wrong. But it seems sometimes man thinks of God as finite but again man is wrong, God is Infinite in every way. We read in Proverbs 19:21 *"There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand."* It is man who is always confused, thinking, and changing in an attempt to be right and complete, but only God is complete and never changing. There is none like God, none has His power, authority, and none has a grace that is irresistible. No one, not one created being can hinder God's will in his work. No one can change the course of God's ordained will or His predetermined purpose. God is the Perfect Being, *"There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD."* Proverbs 21:30 This is because God is all and in all, He is the only true eternal being, and He is the creator of all things and therefore everything in existence is under His perfect Will and Power. John Gill once wrote these words, *"No human schemes whatever, formed with the greatest wisdom and prudence, can ever prevail against God, or set aside or hinder the execution of any design of his; nothing that is pointed against his church, his cause, and interest, his truths and ordinances, in the issue shall succeed; all that are found fighters against him shall not prosper..."* God only commands He never ask, pleads, nor begs, He only commands and succeeds at all His will. Matthew Pool wrote these words, *"all God's counsels or decrees are eternal and unchangeable, and his providence works effectually, so as men cannot resist or hinder it."* People can and will deny God's rule and authority, His ordained predestined will, and His execution of it, but they are mistaken. If anyone, regardless of educational level, their stature in life, or their power, denies these truths, they are wrong. God cannot be hindered of His will or in His work since His power and grace is irresistible. It is not man who let's God into their heart, it is God who comes into their heart.

A Message from Pastor Johnson, Continued

Man does not invite God into their heart it is God who changes their heart. It is God who draws us to Christ, *"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."* John 6:44 And it is God who makes us willing, it is God who quickens our dead spirit, it is God who gives us the faith to be saved, and it is God who walks us through every step of salvation. Therefore, if you hear any man who tells you that *"God cannot change your heart, that it is only changed by your will"*, then that person does not understand God. Paul wrote in Philippians 2:13 *"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."* If God does not "worketh in you" and draw you, then you will never come to Christ for salvation. *"There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God."* Romans 3:11 None, no not one! Not one soul will move unless the Holy Spirit quickens their dead heart and causes them to move. Not in salvation or anything else. Proverbs 21:1 - 2 *"The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will. (2) Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts."* The word "pondereth" means - to balance, that is, measure out (by weight or dimension); figuratively to arrange, direct or tell. Therefore, take the time to study our text scripture, and God will open much understanding about the truth about Him to you, and it will be such a blessing to you.

Church Information and Happenings.

Pastor Johnson will be absent from the pulpit on Sunday March 17th He will be speaking at Northside Baptist Church in Oakdale, La. on that morning. Please pray for this Conference.

The Joy of Our Souls!

By Charles H. Spurgeon

"Christ became to us the Joy of Our Souls. Home, friends, health, wealth, comforts—all lost their 'luster' that day when He saved us, just as stars are hidden by the light of the sun."

Psalms 23:3 *"He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake."*