

PRELUDE MESSAGE (Message Prior to Retreat Weekend)  
Sunday Celebration (2-27-05)

"The Revelation of the Father, the Sacrifice of the Son, and the Presence of the Spirit"

**INTRO**

Overarching Premise: Christianity is not so much measured by the knowledge we possess, but by the joy that knowledge produces [by the joy that possess us]... Joy is the Experience of Faith in: the Revelation of the Father (and His purpose), the Sacrifice of the Son, and the Presence of the Spirit.

Jn 15:11 "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete"

## THE CONTEXT OF JOHN 15:11

- **Jn 13-17 is a Section of Teaching** that contains many elements. What draws our attention uniquely to this section is that it is the LAST NIGHT that Jesus would be with his disciples. These Are His Last Words to His Friends and Future Foundation Stones of the Church.

*"If you will read through the chapter from which our text is taken, and also the chapter which precedes it, you will see the nature of the words which Jesus Christ speaks to his people. Sometimes they are words of instruction. He talks to us that we may know the truth, and the moaning of the truth; but his object is that, knowing the truth, we may have joy in it. I will not say that the more a Christian knows, the more joy he has; but I can truly say that ignorance often hides from us many wells of delight of which we might otherwise drink, and that, all other things being equal, the best-instructed Christian will be the happiest man. He will know the truth, and the truth will make him free. The truth will kill a thousand fears which ignorance would have fostered within him. The knowledge of the love of God, the knowledge of the full atonement made on Calvary, the knowledge of the eternal covenant, the knowledge of the immutable faithfulness of Jehovah, — indeed, all knowledge which reveals God in his relationship to his people, — will tend to create comfort in the hearts of the saints. ... If you are diligent students of the Word, you will find that you have good reason to rejoice in the Lord under all circumstances."* Charles Spurgeon, "Christ's Joy and Ours"

### Jn 13:1-3 ...

#### **"HIS HOUR HAD COME"**

– Set & Appointed Times of God .... throughout Scripture there is reference to a DIVINE TIMETABLE

— This Reveals a Purpose .... where there is a schedule, there is order and purpose

- The Nature & Purpose of This Hour .... **Jn 12:23-28**

– The Purpose of God's Appointed times is FOR HIS GLORY TO BE REVEALED  
glorify = to magnify, extol, celebrate or praise

– "I have come to this hour" — Life comes to us, but we must also come to it!

— **Legitimate Question:** Do I Run Toward Those Times and Places Where God's Glory May be Revealed? .... or.... Do I Run Away From All Things Uncomfortable?

- Why is this "Revelation of Purpose" so critical in the realm of faith and joy?

— Rom 9:1-6 ... The condition of Israel LOOKS LIKE DEFEAT .... without an understanding of Rom 9-11

— Gesthamane to Golgatha LOOKS LIKE DEFEAT .... without an understanding of the above verses

**Jn 13:2, 21** ... consider the Drama and the Intrigue — Satan is Scheming to Destroy, there's been the exploiting of a WEAK LINK (Judas, one of their own will BETRAY!)

— All of this sounds like a BAD situation— until it's understood through the LENS OF THE FATHER'S SOVEREIGN PURPOSE BEING REVEALED ....

Acts 2:22-23 Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know — 23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

Acts 4:27-28 For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.

— There's 2 ways to see this event isn't there:

(1) Jesus was Delivered into Circumstances by a SINFUL BETRAYAL!!

(2) Jesus was Delivered into the Sovereign Purpose of God!!

— HOW DO YOU INTERPRET YOUR "HOUR" (is it a Good Hour or a Bad Hour?)

This Reveals to Me Something About the Father! I now have a VARIABLE that TRUMPS the fallen world's circumstances and One Which I MUST Forevermore Take Into Account As I Go On My Way in Life

— This I am Calling "THE REVELATION OF THE FATHER" .... and it encompasses His Character, His Power, and His Supreme Authority

... This is part of "These things I have spoken to you— that my joy might be in you and that your joy may be full!" (Jn 15:11)

## Jn 13:1, 15:13,

- **"THE HOUR"** ... though there have been and will be many hours in God's Unfolding Purpose, this was "THE" Hour!— the Cross is the Center Piece of Human History. It is the event out of which our existence must be interpreted!!

- The Cross Declares **Our Sin & Guilt**
- " " " **God's Holiness & Righteousness** (unable to tolerate sin and right in His wrath)
- " " " **God's Ability to Redeem** (Rom 11:33)
- " " " **the Depth of God's Love** (Jn 3:16, Rom 8:32)
  - I am His Friend
  - I am Worth More than the Birds & the Grass (Matt 6)
  - I am the Continuous Object of His Acts of Mercy & Kindness (Eph 2:7)

This is part of the "These things I have spoken to you— that my joy might be in you and that your joy may be full" (Jn 15:11)

Jn 14:1 Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me

### This I am Calling "The Sacrifice of the Son"

- **When Life Confronts me, I need to Know the Revelation of the Father (& His Purpose) and the Sacrifice of the Son [and what these things mean for me!!] — Remember, Jesus is the one who has associated these elements with the FULLNESS OF JOY (Jn 15:11)**

## Jn 14:15-18, 25-26

- The Down Payment Element (Eph 1) .... the Strength of God's Promise to not abandon us, and that He will complete what He has begun
- The Indwelling (Empowering) Element
  - Power (Acts 1:8)
  - Liberty (2Co 3:17)
  - Fruit (Gal 5)
  - Revelation (Jn 14:25-26)

### This I am Calling "The Presence of the Spirit"

- **When Life Confronts me, I need to Know the Revelation of the Father (& His Purpose) and the Sacrifice of the Son [and what these things mean for me!!] and the Now Presence of the Holy Spirit — Remember, Jesus is the one who has associated these elements with the FULLNESS OF JOY (Jn 15:11)**

Am I Confronting the "HOURS" of My Life with These Things Sufficiently In Mind?  
... That will have everything to do with the joy in our lives!