

Remnant Life Church
December 28, 2014

“I Am A Delight To God”
Zeph 3:17

Zephaniah 3:17 - *“The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.”*

- Zephaniah (Nahum, Habakkuk, Zeph, Haggai, Zech, Malachi)
 - 9th of the 12 Minor Prophet books (minor in length)
 - An old testament prophet who wrote around 620 BCE
 - A descendent of King Hezekiah (1:1)
 - Just following the violent and pagan rule of Manasseh
 - The longest reigning king (55 years)
 - The worst of the kings due to his intent to make an alliance relationship with Assyria (Ninevah – capital city)
 - Throughout his entire reign there are no prophetic writings after Isaiah; Zephaniah writes before Jeremiah
 - “His abominable reign made divine judgment on Judah inevitable”
 - Zephaniah spends the majority of the first 3 ½ chapters giving warning to the people of Judah and other nations that God’s wrath will come to them because of their wickedness and complacency
 - But in the midst of that he offers hope (**Zeph.2:3**)
 - Seek humility
 - Seek righteousness
 - A restored remnant - (**Zeph. 2:7** - *That land will belong to the remnant of the people of Judah; there they will find pasture.*)
1. God is **with** you
 - a. 2 meanings of the word with
 - i. Sun – to be in proximity of (**Luke 23:32**)
 - ii. **Meta** – to be intimate with (**Luke 23:43**)
 - b. Are in the proximity of Jesus in your daily life or intimate with Him?
 2. His **might** will save you
 - a. To us the word is used to show strength which is seen through accomplishments
 - i. **2 Samuel** and **I Chronicles** we read about David’s mighty men
 - b. God’s might is not by what He does but simply by His being (**Ex 3:14** – “I am”)
 - c. **Isaiah 9:6** - *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*
 - d. He is mighty to save
 - i. Not only the aspects of our earthly lives
 - ii. Most importantly – save us spiritually

3. He **delights** in you
 - a. Pleasing; take pleasure in
 - b. We have forgotten how to take delight or pleasure in the little things of everyday life
 - c. He will show us His delight if we understand how to receive it
 - i. Small measures of joy – driving through Camp Hill without hitting a light (7) on Friday morning
 - ii. Appreciating the little things – parking spot right in the front; finding something that you thought was lost forever; in a long line of cars someone waves me in;
 - iii. Learning not to sweat the small stuff – Wisdom: realizing that virtually all of it is small stuff

4. His love **quiets** you
 - a. Many interpretations of this section of the verse
 - i. In the original Greek it reads “...He is quiet in His love”
 1. Love so deep that no words are needed (K/me)
 2. Peace; settledness; unworried
 - ii. This quietness also refers to renewal – His love renews our spirits, minds and hearts (Nehemiah – joy of the Lord is our strength)
 - iii. Rest for our anxious hearts; at ease; undisturbed
 - iv. Battle rest
 1. Weapons at the rest position
 2. Ready to battle but at rest

5. He **rejoices** over you
 - a. Jesus said that there is more joy in heaven when one sinner repents than over 99 righteous people who do not need to repent. (Luke 15:7)
 - b. Like the people of Judah, who had rejected Him, even they received this promise from God.
 - i. We must forever reject the notion that Jesus somehow found a loop-hole for us to sneak past the judge. He did not beautifully plea-bargain on our behalf and somehow we are begrudgingly admitted into His presence.
 - ii. It was Father God Himself who offered His Son to die for us – THAT IS THE MEASURE OF HIS LOVE
 - iii. He delights/rejoices/celebrates over each of us every time we come to Him

Satan’s lies:

1. God could not love someone who has done the things you have done –
 - a. Jer 1:5 - ...new you before you were formed...
 - b. Rom 8:38-19 - For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
2. You must live your entire life trying to earn God’s love –
 - a. Rom.6:23 “..the gift of God...”

3. Every time you sin, God loves you less –
 - a. **Rom 5:20** “...where sin increases His grace increases even more...”

I Peter 2:9 - *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

- It is in this place of boldness, cloaked in humility, that we come this morning to the Lord's table.