

QUIET TIME GUIDE
FOR Monday 6/9/08
FROM JACK MILLWOOD

Greeting:

“What are you so happy about?” “What are you so down in the mouth about?” Every had anybody ask you either one of those questions? They may have said it a little bit differently but you get my point don’t you? Has anyone ever walked up to you and said, “What’s wrong?” or “You must be having a good day!” My point is that so often our face, our attitude, our outward disposition tells a lot about what is going on inside of us. We really are like books that people can read. Some of us are more transparent than others and some of us try to hide our true inner feelings. Then again some of us are truly easy to read. A lot of that has to do with our personalities and our temperaments. However, regardless of how open or closed we are, all of us have days when it is easier to smile than other days. Today as you begin a brand new week I have a question for you. My question is simple, “What do you have to be happy about? Do you have a reason to be happy today?” The Psalmist in Psalm 97 says that we all have a reason to shout!

Scripture for today:

Psalm 97: 1 GOD rules: there's something to shout over! On the double, mainlands and islands—celebrate! 2 Bright clouds and storm clouds circle 'round him; Right and justice anchor his rule. 3 Fire blazes out before him, Flaming high up the craggy mountains. 4 His lightnings light up the world; Earth, wide-eyed, trembles in fear. 5 The mountains take one look at God And melt, melt like wax before earth's Lord. 6 The heavens announce that he'll set everything right, And everyone will see it happen—glorious! 7-8 All who serve handcrafted gods will be sorry— And they were so proud of their ragamuffin gods! On your knees, all you gods—worship him! And Zion, you listen and take heart! Daughters of Zion, sing your hearts out: GOD has done it all, has set everything right. 9 You, God, are High God of the cosmos, Far, far higher than any of the gods. 10 God loves all who hate evil, And those who love him he keeps safe, Snatches them from the grip of the wicked. 11 Light-seeds are planted in the souls of God's people, Joy-seeds are planted in good heart-soil. 12 So, God's people, shout praise to God, Give thanks to our Holy God!

Life Application:

There are always plenty of reasons to get down. People are always quick to tell you the difficult things in life. This morning perhaps it would be good to listen to the Psalmist and see if we have a reason to be happy today. He said, “You want a reason to be happy? Here is one – GOD RULES!” For him that one truth was reason enough to “celebrate!” As a matter of fact, the thought of that truth was so important he called on every one to join him in celebration. He said, “On the double, mainlands and islands—celebrate! 2 Bright clouds and storm clouds circle 'round him;” Come to think of it he is right. That is a reason to be happy today. Regardless of what is going on in your life remember this truth – “God rules!” He is in charge. Often times we forget that simple truth. In spite of what you may see and hear from every other corner of life, God rules! We have the advantage of biblical history as an example for us. We can go back and read where so

many times life seemed dark and bleak and the people who had put their trust in God felt the circumstances dictated a response of negativism and defeat. Yet through it all they came to understand that God was in control even in the tough times. Some times it turned out that the tough times were actually an indication that he was still in charge. He was using the difficulty to accomplish his grand scheme. You can know today that regardless of what is happening in you and around you that God is in control.

The contemporary Christian music group, Avalon, sings a wonderful song that simple says "God is in control." The words of the song are worth remembering today. *"This is no time for fear. This is a time for faith and determination. Don't lose the vision here, carried away by emotion. Hold on to all that you hide in your heart. There is one thing that has always been true -It holds the world together...God is in control. We believe that His children will not be forsaken. God is in control. We will choose to remember and never be shaken. There is no power above or beside Him, we know God is in control, oh God is in control. History marches on. There is a bottom line drawn across the ages. Culture can make its plan. Oh, but the line never changes, No matter how the deception may fly There is one thing that has always been true... It will be true forever. He has never let you down. Why start to worry now? Why start to worry now? He is still the Lord of all we see and He is still the loving Father Watching over you and me, watching over you, watching over me, watching over every thing, watching over you, watching over me. Every little sparrow, every little thing, every little thing. God is in control"* Yes he is. Don't doubt it. The Psalmist uses vivid imagery of a God in control. **Clouds surround him**; he is anchored by **justice and rule**. **Fire blazes** before him, his light **lights up the world, mountains melt before him**. We are called to get on our **knees** and **worship him**. We are to take heed and **sing our hearts out**.

Spiritual exercise:

It is easy to lose sight of what is real in the face of what is loud. Troubles and problems can make a lot of noise. They can demand our attention and distract us from the truth. In reading about World War 2 lately I have read where commanders so often used diversionary tactics. They created a scene away from their main thrust to cause the enemy to look away and become distracted. Thus they became vulnerable where the enemy planned all along to attack them. Don't let your enemy cause you to become distracted by diversionary problems and tactics so that you lose sight of the simple truth that God is in control. Yeah -you have a reason to be happy today. God is in control!

Thought for the day.

God is in control!