

Jesus Is Both Sovereign and Savior

Luke 10:17-20

"The 70 returned with joy saying, *"Lord, even the demons are subject to us **in Your name.**"* And He said to them, "I was watching **Satan** fall from heaven like lightning. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on **serpents** and **scorpions**, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. Nevertheless, **do not rejoice** that *the spirits are subject to you*, **but rejoice** that *your names are recorded in heaven.*"

I. Five reasons "to not rejoice" over temporal good things that happen to us.

Every good and perfect gift comes from God, but all the bad things you face are authored by evil spirits.

Jesus often used metaphors (e.g. serpents and scorpions) to describe Satan's work in the world (Rev. 9).

Our enemies include the world, the flesh, and the devil, all influenced by the evil spirits that surround us.

A. The spirits are never subject to us.

The disciples say "demons are subject to us" and Jesus says "the spirits are subject to you," but it is only the "voice of Christ" to whom the spirits listen; or as the disciples say, "in Your name."

B. The control of the universe is only Christ's.

That's a great thing, is it not? Jesus Christ is in control – He is sovereign. Well, it depends. If God is in control of all things, even evil spirits, then "why do bad things happen to God's people?" Why?

C. We don't know what Christ knows.

The difficulty for every believer is to think that "temporal good things that happen" are always best, and "temporal bad things that happen" are always awful. That's the way we think because we don't know what it is that Christ knows. He's omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent and "works all things for good." (Rom. 8:28) It's the "working" part that's painful; and if we could, we'd stop Him from working.

D. We will one day be "hurt" by the spirits.

Death is an enemy. Sickness is an enemy. Loss is an enemy. We will all experience these hurts.

E. It's best to keep "an even keel" emotionally about the things of this life.

Don't rejoice over the good things that comes your way, and don't despair over the bad things that come your way. "Don't rejoice" is a difficult, difficult commandment. But, He's Christ. Don't rejoice.

II. Five reasons "to rejoice" that my name is recorded in heaven.

Revelation 20:15 - "Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Philippians 4:3 – " Help those... whose names [are] in the book of life." Paul uses this for all Christians.

A. My life now compared to your life in heaven is like a blink.

Why get fired up about things that will soon pass? Why get anxious about things that will never last?

Even your health will one day fail, but your resurrected body will never grow old or frail. Think big.

B. In heaven all the spirits will be judged and removed.

There will be no need to have spirits "subject to you" because all the spirits will be cast into the lake of fire and will no longer be causing "pain" – it is how Christ "wipes away all tears" (Rev. 21:4).

C. In heaven all my gifts and possessions are never lost

You will have a home; relationships, journeys, trips, gifts, work, fulfillment, experiences, enjoyment – in essence, it will be a paradise where the "scorpion and serpent" won't sting because they're gone.

D. In heaven I will have what God always intended me to have.

LIFE the way it was meant to be lived, without emotional and physical dysfunction or pain, with a confident and selfless way of giving to others while enjoying all the gifts that are given to you.

E. It's best to always keep my mind on "things above"

"Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth" (Colossians 3:2).