

Sermon May 22, 2016 - The Holy Trinity,

God's Delight

Proverbs 8:1–4, 22–31



Dear Friends in Christ,

Have you ever wondered if God delights in you? We know that He loves us and that is good news, but does He delight in us? After all, we are sinful human beings.

Well in case you didn't know it, know for sure that the Lord does delight in you. Our Old Testament reading proclaims this truth, it proclaims God's delight (vs. 30–31), and gives us a glimpse, a rare glimpse for that matter, where and when God's delight for you started. It is the song of Wisdom which is our wisdom, and which

leads us to rejoice in the work of God.

The Old Testament lesson of Proverbs is the basis for our meditation this morning, on this Trinity Sunday.

In this reading, we are given a glimpse of creation. Most of us are familiar with the account of creation in Genesis 1 and 2. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Out of nothing, God brought all things into being.

What is beautiful about this text from Proverbs, however, is that we are offered a glimpse of something more when we hear the story of creation. We are given a glimpse of God: God, before His work of creation. In that glimpse we see that there is already delight, God's delight. Even before the world began, God was already rejoicing, but there is more, for that delight, God's delight begins the story of our salvation.

But, what was God delighting in? Notice how the text answers this for us, in two verses we hear that (vs. 30–31) the Lord was delighting in Wisdom, and Wisdom was delighting in the people God made to inhabit the world. Wisdom was delighting already in you! You are Wisdom's delight! That is good news indeed!

Now, the question here is who is this Wisdom we speak of? The apostle Paul tells us who Wisdom is. In His letter to the Colossian congregation the apostle Paul tells us these words: "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him." (Col 1:16), and by Him he refers to Jesus, God's beloved Son (Col. 1:13)

In other words, before creation, Jesus was with God the Father, and all things were created through Him. Thus, Jesus is this figure of Wisdom, the master workman who is with the Father before the world was created. The Father delighted in Jesus, and Jesus rejoiced before the Father. The world itself was created with exuberance and joy. Father, Son, and Spirit worked together to bring all things into being, and after the world was created, God called all things good.

Now, this delight does not end with Jesus only, but it spread from God to His creation. Hear what Wisdom says of himself: I was "rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of men" (v 31).

Before the world began, Jesus was filled with delight for all people and, after the fall into sin, Jesus held on to this original delight. Out of joy, Jesus came to save these people and to restore creation, which had been cursed because of human sin.

Sometimes we don't like talking about the Old Testament, or at least we don't like to hear ancient stories, yet here in this one particularly we rejoice at knowing that even at the foundation of the world God's delight for you was already at work. Why, because God the Father has delight in his Son, Jesus, and Jesus, God's Son, has delight in all people including you today. And that delight is what brought about the story of our salvation. In other words does God light in you? Absolutely, because God delights in his work of salvation! Through Jesus Christ, when you are in Christ, you are God's delight!

Sometimes, people approach God as a momentary fix, as a crutch for a problem in life. They turn to God only when something is wrong. Whatever it is, death, disaster, family problem, whatever it is. Now, there is nothing wrong in going to God in those circumstances, in fact we are encouraged to go to the one who has the power to help us in our time of need, just that we have to keep in mind that God is not a temporary healer, He is not the momentary fix for a problem in life. Because when you do that, then God unfortunately becomes very small. In sin, we reduce God. We make Him fit our needs, but God is not small!

We see that here in our text of meditation, in the reading from Proverbs, God is not small, in fact His forgiveness is not small, and is not a simple momentary fix in our lives. It is part of a much larger story. Forgiveness is a part of God's delight even since before the world began. God the Father delighted in Jesus, who was His master workman. Jesus formed us as creatures and found delight in us. But after we fell into sin, and although deserving of punishment and condemnation, God the Father still delighted in His Son, and because of his delight for the son, His delight extends in forgiveness to each one of those who are in Christ. Why? Because Jesus chose to come, to die for your sin, and to rise for your salvation! By His death and resurrection, Jesus promises to bring you from this world into the new creation of God, where you will sing an everlasting song of praise.

This text of Proverbs, is also a song, a song that teaches us to sing a song of praise. To give God thanks for His delight in Jesus Christ, who not only created us but also came in love to save us after we fell into sin. It is a song of delight in God, for God delights in you through His Son Jesus Christ.

When you read the Book of Proverbs, it is easy to think about us pursuing wisdom, knowledge and understanding. That is, in the Book of Proverbs, we expect to encounter short proverbial sayings that will help us in discipleship, in our daily lives, to be better people, better people of God. Proverbs teaches us how to walk in the ways of God that's for sure, and you are encouraged to read it, to meditate on it, but...

But what is amazing about this passage from Proverbs, is that we don't come across words about us pursuing God. No. Instead, we come across words about God pursuing us. Hear what the text tells us: "Does not wisdom call? Does not understanding raise her voice? ² On the heights beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; ³ beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries aloud: ⁴ "To you, O men, I call, and my cry is to the children of man.... (Prov. 8:1-4)

Wisdom goes to the crowded places, calls to all people, and sings of God's delight. Before we ever pursue God, God pursues us. Before we ever delight in God, God already delights in us. Thus, our salvation begins and ends with God's delight. And now you know it, you are God's delight! He does delight in you that He pursues you.

King David knew that too well, when he wrote in his Psalm 23 in the last verse, he says: "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever." (Psalm 23:6)

The word for "follow" means "pursue." Because of Christ, God will pursue us with goodness and mercy all of our days.

Does God delight in you? Absolutely, you better know it, you better trust that. This proverb does certainly confirm that. Since the beginning God has delighted in you, and will continue delighting in you through His Son Jesus Christ.

Now you can look ahead to the end of time, knowing His love will pursue us all our days. Forgiven and restored in Christ, God delights in us, God delights in you!

Now you praise Him, you honor Him, you prostrate before in Him in worship and in delight for He delights in you!

In His name, amen.