

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL.

INTRO.:

A. Read the text: 3 John 1-4.

B. Regarding the text:

1. This third epistle of John was written to one of John's friends, Gaius.
 - 1) John expresses his desire for Gaius' good health.
 - 2) He compares his physical health with his spiritual health. "I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."
 - 3) In other words, he was saying that things were well with his soul.
2. When things seem to be in disarray, a healthy soul can brighten our day.

C. We often sing... It Is Well With My Soul.

DISCUSSION: IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL BECAUSE...

I. GOD IS STILL GOD.

A. Sometimes it feels as if things around is are out of control.

1. Not a good situation not a good feeling.
2. What can we do when we feel life is out of control?

B. It is best to remember that God has power over all things.

1. **Colossians 1:16-18** "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."
2. **Isaiah 40:28-31** "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

C. Knowing that "He changes not" brings peace to our lives.

1. We cannot control what others think or do!
2. No matter the severity of the storm, God's promises still stand.
 - 1) **Matthew 8:27** "But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!"
 - 2) Paul: **Philippians 1:21** "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."
3. **Exodus 3:14** "And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you." (***) The eternal one which is, and which was, and which is to come. **Rev. 1:8**.

II. GOD HAS PROMISED GOOD TO THE FAITHFUL.

A. No matter what goes on in our world.

B. All things WILL work together for good to them that love God.

1. **Romans 8:28** "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."
2. **2 Timothy 1:12** "For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

C. We should focus on this promise.

1. Paul: **Philippians 1:21** “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” **2 Timothy 4:6-8**.
2. Stephen (**Acts 7**).
3. We have the same promise (**Hebrews 13:5** “... I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee”).

D. Bad circumstances must not discourage us.

1. **Romans 8:35-37** “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”
2. Things in our government can’t stop the good promised to the faithful (**Revelation 2:10**). Roman authorities crucified Jesus. However, His death brought victory to the faithful.

III. OUR STRUGGLES WILL NOT LAST FOREVER!

A. For the Christian, troubles are temporary.

1. **2 Corinthians 4:17** “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;”
2. **Revelation 21:4** “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”

B. No matter what men, societies or governments force upon us, the faithful will win!

1. How does it feel when you know you are going to win?
2. This is an assured victory!
 - 1) **1 Corinthians 15:57** “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - 2) **1 John 5:4** “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”

IV. CONCLUSION:

A. The faithful child of God can rejoice in His promises.

B. God requires obedience to Him.