

Rejoicing In The Tender Mercy of God

Luke 1:57-80

December 13, 2009

The Birth of John

- Luke 1:14- *And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.*
- Luke 1:57-58- *Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.*

The Silence of Zechariah

- The Wisdom of God in it
- The Discipline of the Lord

God probably granted deep understanding to Zechariah as God forced him to meditate and ponder his purposes.

Don't despise the discipline of the Lord!

The Prophecy of Zechariah

- *Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us. Psalm 90:15*
- As soon as Zechariah regains his ability to talk and hear he immediately blesses God!

The Role of the Holy Spirit

- The role of Holy Spirit was to help Zechariah and others to perceive the meaning of this event. Because Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit he was able to rejoice in the work of God!

The Content of the Prophecy

Two things worth pointing out:

1. Salvation

2. Mercy

The Tender Mercy of God

- The word translated “tender” literally means “spleen”, or “bowels”. Figuratively it refers to “pity”, “sympathy”, or “compassion”. Another way of saying what this verse is getting at is to say God’s “inward affections of pity, sympathy, and compassion.”

Conclusion

- Only by being filled with the Holy Spirit can we perceive the tender mercy of God in Christ so as to rejoice in it!