



**Rejoice and Be Glad
Moment of Manna
Leo Pete
February 21, 2010
www.pathwaywesleyan.com**

Each Sunday that I have stood before you for the past few years, I have quoted the same Scripture every time. "This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24). Occasionally someone will ask me, "Don't you know any other Scripture?" Or, "Why do you always use the same Scripture?" And I began asking myself the same question. Maybe it's time to use another Bible verse. So I began looking for another Scripture to lead off my Moment of Manna. I found that any Scripture, every Scripture is worthy of being repeated. I knew that finding the right replacement would be easy, so I began trying out a few of them to myself to see how they sounded, but I wasn't comfortable with any of them. I had to stay with Psalm 118:24, and I asked myself, "Why?" What is so special about Psalm 118:24 that I can't give it up? What is so special about that verse that I can't let go of it; that it won't let go of me? I found that it was because of the importance of "today", and what a great gift from God it truly is.

You see, all good things happen "today"...not yesterday...and not tomorrow. Yesterday's gone! Tomorrow never comes. It's all about "today". When you say, "Yesterday was my birthday", it's over. No more celebration. It's done. When you say, "Tomorrow's my birthday", you can anticipate the celebration, but you still have to wait. The real celebration comes when you can say, "Today's my birthday". Now you can celebrate. Now you can feel the joy. It's not gone by, and you don't have to wait any longer. Today's the day! Today is the most important, the most joyous day of your life.

In Luke 23:43 Jesus said to the thief on the cross, "Today you will be with me in paradise"...not yesterday, not tomorrow, but "today". In Matt 6:24 Jesus said, "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own". He was telling us to have faith; to not worry about what tomorrow may bring, but to live today to its fullest. He will provide. Today is all you need. In 2Cor 6:2 it says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, today is the day of salvation." Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but "today". Our hope is not in yesterday. Our hope is not in tomorrow. Our hope is in "today". It's been said before and it bears repeating. What we are today is the result of the choices and decisions we made yesterday. What we are tomorrow will be the result of the choices and decisions we make today.

Maybe things didn't go as well as we had planned yesterday. Maybe it wasn't our best day. But remember, yesterday ended at midnight last night and today is a do-over. It's a new dawn; a new day. It's one of the greatest gifts God has given us. We have every reason to rejoice and be glad, because no matter how bad we may have messed up yesterday, God has given us another chance. He has given us "today". It's a do-over.

Yesterday's gone! There's no sense in fretting about it; and tomorrow never comes. You

see, today's the tomorrow we were talking about yesterday. It's all about "today". It's all about remembering and rejoicing in the gift of today. There's a tired cliché that is used a lot and used to irritate me every time I heard it, because I knew it was meaningless. People would say, "Have a nice day." When I would hear that, I doubted its sincerity, and it irritated me. But having gone through this little search into the meaning of Psalm 118:24, I see it differently now. Now when someone tells me to "Have a nice day", I think of that Scripture and how important "today" is. That gift of "today" gives me a new choice, a new chance to bring about a new change and become a new person, able to experience a new life. Then I have a nice day. And now, when I say, "Have a nice day!" to others, it's a code. What I'm really saying to them is, "This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it." Change that Scripture? I don't think so. I need that reminder. I need to say it out loud. So I will continue using this Scripture; for me so I'll remember to rejoice in "today", and for you, so you'll remember, too. Rejoice and be glad in that gift of today, use it to its fullest, and have a nice day!