

LIVE TODAY

TEXT: *Psalms 118:24: This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.*

INTRODUCTION:

These words were written by David. They are from a song of rejoicing to be sung at a special day of celebration. The special day was the day of the Great Hosanna which came during the Feast of Tabernacles. We can use these words and make any day a day of thanksgiving and praise. Do not just read the words or say them, but live them!



How shall we use this day the Lord has made?

I. Today, appropriate the joy and inner peace that is your heritage as a child of God. Receive:

- **Freedom from carrying the burden of past sin.**
- **Freedom from being anxious about tomorrow.**
- **His Spirit to strengthen us for today.**

A. A habitually sorrowful Christian is a contradiction of terms.

B. When we know of God's power and His promises, does it border on blasphemy to be a consistent worrier?

ILLUSTRATION:

News media play up all kinds of bad and unhappy news. We resent this and complain about the distortion, but how about our Christian conversations? Do they center more on our problems or on our praises?

C. When we allow this divine joy and peace into our lives, we can witness and serve Him more effectively..

1. A joyful Christian demonstrates he believes what he is saying about the Lord.
2. A Christian at peace with God and with his fellowman has more strength for service.

- **Anger drains strength**
- **Grudge carrying drains strength**
- **Resentments drain strength**
- **A humble, forgiving spirit eliminates these energy draining attitudes.**



D. Let go and let God

Search your heart for anything that is holding this joy and peace from your heart.

1. Ask God to help you let go of it.
2. Replace your fear with living faith!

II. Today, time is priceless, use it well.

A. Thieves of time



1. Hurry

ILLUSTRATION:

Pennsylvania Dutch motto: *The "hurried-er" I go the "behinder" I get.*

- a. Hurry causes tensions, inner tension, and tensions with other people.
- b. Ask for guidance from God in learning to simplify your life so that "hurry" will not rob your serenity.

2. Indecision

- a. Ask for God's strong guidance.
- b. Apply Biblical truth.
- c. Decide in the Spirit of love what decision Jesus would make.



3. Second guessing

- a. Don't waste time wondering about situations you are no longer confronted with.
- b. Make the most of the opportunities this decision has brought you.

ILLUSTRATION:

Two little seven year-old girls were riding in a glass bottom boat at Silver Springs Park looking at the seaweed, fish, etc. One said, "*What if you decided to jump on that glass, it broke, and you fell through?*" Her little friend said, "*Oh, I guess I'd try to catch a fish!*" No wasted energy or a second-guess in a decision for her! She would make her present situation count for all she could!

III. Today, include Prayer and Bible study in your planned schedule.

A quiet time of prayer, Bible study, and just listening quietly in an alert awareness of His Presence for 30 minutes or more. This is not a luxury, but a *necessity*.



ILLUSTRATION:

Douglas Steer, author of excellent books on prayer, says that for a Christian to say he has no time for prayer and meditation is the same as for a carpenter to say he has no time to sharpen his tools. A carpenter cannot build well with dull tools. A Christian cannot be successful in witnessing and in helping his fellowmen if he has a prayerless life and is out of touch with God.

- A. This consistent communion with God reminds us we are each a Child of the King.
 - 1. Created for high purposes.
 - 2. Called to live on a level of higher attainment than those without our precious heritage.
 - 3. Conscious of the unimaginable. We are to be joint heirs with Christ of an eternal kingdom

CONCLUSION:

This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

- Appropriate the joy and peace God wants us to have, and let it make us better witnesses for Him, better servants to the least of those who need our help.
- Plan your day with some policies and serenity, seeking God's strong guidance. Give a keystone place in your day to a communion with your Heavenly Father.



Thank God for this day, fill each day with thanksgiving!

Each day is a gift from God, and we add it to all that we think, say, and do. Then at the close of the day we can keep it longer, and it becomes the past we can't recall. It's worth all our so-called disciplines and self-denials to be able to end the day confident that we have used it to grow in faith, in hope, in love, and in service to the world He loves.

God would send His church into the world, but first He sends His Spirit into the Church, and it is in this Spirit that we are enabled to carry out these high plans for a typical day in the life of a Christian. This is the day! Yes this was! The Psalmist said THIS IS THE DAY!

Life has installment plans. I came here today one step at a time, traveling curves and hills one at a time — like learning the Bible — not all at once. Live a day at a time, because one day is all we have. Yesterday is gone. It may have been one of tragedy, pain, sorrow, or hatred, but it is gone forever.



I have had gladness. It too is gone. Tomorrow is beyond our reach. We cannot depend on tomorrow, because it may never come. Some of you are in school and will be thrilled when you are done. You should forget tomorrow and study today so you can have a better tomorrow.

Today is all that is ours. Live today, not only because it is all we have, but also because it is all we can manage.

A juggler can keep 100 things in the air all at once. This takes skill. You and I don't have the skill to handle tomorrow. Let's take care of today. Today and yesterday and tomorrow will take care of itself. Obedience of yesterday, or

promise to God for tomorrow can help us today.

The way to living successful today:

- 1. Go for a look at God's Word each morning.**
- 2. Go over the day's plans with God each morning.**
- 3. Remember He is with you.**
- 4. Ask Him for guidance.**
- 5. Ask Him for help through the day.**
- 6. Leave the day with its victories or defeats in God's hands at the close of each day.**



Don't take any cares, or worries, or hatred, or failures, etc. to bed with you. Close out the day and start a new day the next morning with THE LORD'S PRAYER.