

"Notes on Romans 12:15"

1-Rejoice with them that rejoice:

1-Joy and sorrow are great facts of human life.

2-If there is such an element as purpose in the universe, it is clear that men were made:

1-To experience gladness and grief.

2-It is also clear:

That both experiences are intended to act as discipline by which human character may be tested and tried.

3-Fair weather-----Happiness

4-Cloudy weather.---Sorrow

5-Example-----Job.

3-The religion of Jesus does not seek to subdue or blame these natural emotions---(Joy-Sorrow)

1-It aims at controlling them.

2-At purifying them.

3-At making them all minister to ~~our~~ our spiritual good. Romans 8:28.

4-Ecclesiastes 3:4;

There is a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

1-We cannot fix the seasons of joy or of sorrow.

1-The day fixed for the wedding may prove the day for the funeral. (2) The ship which was to bring back the absent brother, may only bring his coffin.

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5-On the other hand, the day that we had set for mourning:

1-God may turn that day to one of joy, and gird it with irresistible gladness.

2-Weep with them that weep:

1-Compliance with the latter clause of the text is perhaps more needful than compliance with the former.

1-The distressed require help.

2-The prosperous not so much.

3-Any separation of the two duties weakens both.

2-We must guard against the mere indulgence of passive sympathy.

1-The Levite and the Pharisee

"passed by" the wounded traveller.

3-The rejoicing and mourning of the text imply an active sympathy.

1-Right action forms habits of good will and benevolence.

2-The "Good Samaritan" Luke 10:30-37

4-Receive and example from the Redeemer:

1-No ascetic or misanthrope was he;

1-Who multiplied the innocent gait of the marriage feast,

John 2:1-11

And mingled

his tears with those of the weeping sisters of Lazarus.

John 11:1-46.

2-But the night of weeping shall be followed by the morning of joy.

