

Mid-Week Meditation
May 27, 2020
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New St. James Presbyterian Church

Some further thoughts about “Holy Humour”

Proverbs/Sayings...

A cheerful/merry heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones. (**Proverbs 17:22**)

What soap is to the body laughter is to the soul. (*Jewish Proverb*)

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. (**Ecclesiastes 3:4**)

Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh. (**Luke 6:21**)

Fundamentalists have no sense of humor, none at all.

Life is a burden to them while they wait to go to some fantasy called heaven.

As **H. L. Mencken** put it: "*the Christian fundamentalist has the awful fear that someone, somewhere, may be happy.*"

I do not think Christian theologians can ever laugh. They are too serious... too occupied in trying to explain God... leaving no room for playfulness.

Or as Oscar Wilde put it: "*over-seriousness is a mask and a cover for the shallow.*" (**David T. Suzuki**)

A number of years ago "*Playboy*" magazine had an article [written by Harvey Cox] about Jesus accompanied by a [sketch] of Jesus, with his head thrown back, laughing.

[NOTE from Mark: *I have this sketch – it is awesome!!*]

The editors said that in all the years they had been publishing the magazine they had never received so much hate mail.

Complaints poured in over the [sketch] of a laughing Jesus.

Isn't that revealing as to how many devoutly religious people must have been reading "*Playboy*" magazine?

Can you imagine hate mail from any other source? (**William Edelen, 12 August 2001**)

When God laughs at the soul and the soul laughs back at God, the persons of the Trinity are begotten.

When the Father laughs at the Son and the Son laughs back at the Father, that laughter gives pleasure, that pleasure gives joy, that joy gives love, and that is the Holy Spirit. (**Meister Eckhart**)