

We Will Weep and Mourn While the World Rejoices

The following article contains excerpts from “A Book of Bible Study”,
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[Scripture quotations taken from the NASB](#)

In John 16:20-22, Jesus taught that now is our time of grief. He said that during this present life we will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. But then He encouraged us when He said that the day will come when we will see Him face to face, and in that day no one will ever take away our joy again.

Though now is our time of grief as we share in the sufferings of Christ according to God’s will for our lives, we are not left without help and comfort. Paul encouraged us when he wrote: “For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.” (2 Corinthians 1:5).

Through Christ, the living Word of God, we have been given many promises of God’s mercy, help, and provision for our lives as recorded in the Scriptures. We have also been promised that the grace and strength of Christ will be given to us in a measure sufficient to sustain us in our weakness and need (2 Corinthians 12:9-10, Philippians 4:13).

In Philippians 4:6-7 Paul encouraged us when he assured us that God will give us His peace, which “surpasses all understanding”, as we bring our requests to Him in prayer, with thanksgiving. God’s peace transcends all human reasoning and understanding in that it is not a fragile peace that

depends upon the continuance of favorable circumstances in our lives. Rather, it is a peace that will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus even through times of trouble and hardship.

If we should find ourselves in a hard place in life, or if we look back over the years lamenting of all the “good things” that we wanted for ourselves, but these things were withheld from us by our loving and sovereign God, then let us take comfort in knowing that we are among the few whom God has chosen and brought to faith in His Son Jesus Christ (Matthew 7:13-14, 22:14, Luke 13:23-30). We are among the few who have been given an eternal inheritance “which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away” (1 Peter 1:4).

For all of us who are called to faith in Christ, God has ordained that we must share in the sufferings of His Son, in order that we may also share in His eternal glory (John 12:26, Mark 10:35-40, Romans 8:17). When we consider the sufferings, losses, and hardships of our lives, let us call to mind once again Paul’s encouragement when he said: ***“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” (Romans 8:18).***

As believers, God has ordained that all things will be made to work together for our eternal good, even the troubles and hardships which He allows to touch our lives. We have been promised that all our troubles will achieve for us an eternal weight of glory that far exceeds the weight and burden of the troubles themselves. Therefore, Paul exhorted us to fix our eyes not upon the things of this world which are seen and are only temporal, but upon the things of God which are unseen and eternal (1 Thessalonians 5:18, Romans 8:28, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

Our portion is not in this life; rather our citizenship and our reward are in Heaven. By God’s grace we are no longer numbered with those of the world, upon whom Jesus pronounced woes. He characterized their lives in Luke 6:24-26 as those who have their comfort, consolation, and reward now, during this present life. By contrast, we are those who are blessed by God in that He has called us to faith in His Son. Jesus characterized our lives in Luke 6:20-23 as those who are poor, who hunger, and who weep now. We are

excluded, insulted, and rejected because we belong to Christ, and the world hates us, just as Cain hated Abel (1 John 3:11-15).

In God's time, the day will come for every believer when our race has been run, and this present life will be over. At that time, all the days that God has ordained for our sorrows and our share in the sufferings of Christ will come to an end. As God's people, we can look forward to the day when "He will swallow up death for all time, And the Lord God will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth...." (Isaiah 25:8).

One day, according to God's plan, we will be citizens of the New Jerusalem, and as John prophesied in Revelation: "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away" (Revelation 21:4).

God spoke through the prophet Isaiah saying: "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind." (Isaiah 65:17). The time will come for us when all the "former things": the pain, the rejections, the betrayals, the afflictions, the hostility and harsh treatment, the losses of every kind, the struggles and threatening circumstances, the unfulfilled desires and longings, the suffering and sorrow of every kind will come to an end and will come to mind no more.

Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians: "For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known." (1 Corinthians 13:12). In Paul's day, mirrors were pieces of polished metal, which gave only a poor or dim reflection of one's actual image.

By way of comparison to this dim reflection, we cannot see or understand all that God is accomplishing through the sufferings and difficulties of our present life, because God requires of His people that we walk by faith and not by sight. It has been given to us to walk through this present life not by what we can see and understand, but by what God has

said about Himself as revealed in His word (Isaiah 55:8-9, 2 Corinthians 5:7).

From reading the Book of Job, we find that it was not revealed to Job the reason that all his sufferings and losses had come upon him. In the same way, many of us as God's people will never fully understand in this life what God was accomplishing through our sufferings until we are finally together with Him in Heaven. At that time, as Paul encouraged us: "then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known".

As God's people we have been chosen from before the creation of the world to be brought to faith in His Son Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29-30, Ephesians 1:4-5). We are those who have been appointed to eternal life (Acts 13:48), and it has been granted to us not only to believe in Christ, but also to share in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death (Philippians 1:29, 3:10).

We share in the sufferings of Christ during our lives here on earth, and after this life is over, we will receive the end of our faith, the salvation of our souls, and we will share in His glory in Heaven as the children of God. God began the work of salvation within us, and God Himself will carry this work through to completion (Philippians 1:6, 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24).

In Revelation 7:9-17, John described the comfort and joy of the great multitude in white robes, the saints of God, who come from "every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues". Within this passage, John wrote: "they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes." (Revelation 7:15-17).

Paul taught in 1 Corinthians 2:9 that no eye has seen, no ear has heard, nor has it ever entered into the mind of man the things God that has prepared for those who love Him. Since all that we as God's people are able to see and understand of Him in this present life is but a dim reflection of what we will

one day see and know, we will end this article with God's words, and not man's.

From the Apostle John, our "brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus" (Revelation 1:9), we have been given this vision of the risen Christ, the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last. This is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, whom we shall one day see face to face. Having shared in His sufferings according to the will of God for our lives, we will also one day share in His glory. In Revelation 1:12-16, John wrote:

"Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength."