

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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SORROW IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

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Sorrow is mentioned 16 times in the New Testament. Although we often look at sorrow in a negative way, it must be known as a positive thing too. Consider these truths about sorrow located in the New Testament.

1. SORROW CAN BE VERY TIRING. When Jesus was praying in the garden, “Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done” (Lk. 22:42), it is reported “when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow” (Lk. 22:45). We would do well to remember those who have been dealing with sickness, death of a loved one, or some other difficult situation, likely have been sorrowing and by extension will be run-down and tired. We should do what we can to help them in their time of need.

2. SORROW IS NOT FOREVER. It has its need and place, but will eventually turn to brighter days and

moments. John records, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you” (Jn. 16:20-22). Whatever our source of sorrow is, we must remember it will not last forever. The Psalmist beautifully said, “For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning” (Psa. 30:5). May God be thanked for His love, care, and concern!

3. SORROW OF A SPIRITUAL SORT. Paul penned, “I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the

Holy Ghost, That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh” (Rom. 9:1-3). In this place, Paul is lamenting the spiritual condition of his fellow Jews. They were not right with God, and this brought sorrow to the apostle. When folks in our lives drift and fall away from God, we, too, should be sorrowful. But we should use this sorrow to drive us to help our lost friends and family. James reminds, “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins” (Jam. 5:19-20). Yes, be sorrowful over those who are lost, but be motivated to help them too!

4. SORROW CAN BE HINDERING. That is, it can be allowed to cause an individual child of God to feel the need to give up on God.

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Paul, in writing to the Corinthian brethren stated, “So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow” (II Cor. 2:7). These inspired words are in relation to the need to forgive others. In failing to do so, we could potentially drive someone away from God. The truth is, we can overcharge someone with sorrow in many different and varied ways. May this never be accomplished by us!

5. SORROW OF A GODLY SORT. It is written, “For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of” (II Cor. 7:10). This sorrow indicates one is saddened as a result of his disobedience to God’s Word. This sorrow is one which drives a humble and penitent heart to sincerely say, “I have sinned,” and to seek forgiveness from God (I Jn. 1:9). Our Lord had this in mind when saying, “Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted” (Matt. 5:4). The Psalmist also was considering this when authoring, “The righteous cry,

and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit” (Psa. 34:17-18). Seeing we are all sinners (Rom. 3:23), we all need to take custody of this sorrow.

6. SORROW OF THE WORLDLY SORT. In the same context of godly sorrow, Paul writes, “but the sorrow of the world worketh death” (II Cor. 7:10). This kind of sorrow essentially says one is sorry they got caught doing wrong. Somebody witnessed the wrongdoing, and therefore, one is compelled to say something about it. Not because they are saddened about disappointing God, but simply because they have been seen. This is a great time to remember although it is possible to “hide” my sin from humans, it cannot be so from God. The Hebrew writer points out, “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do” (Heb. 4:12). Let us avoid this sorrow altogether!

7. SORROW OF THE ETERNAL SORT.

Paul was very concerned about misteachings concerning the Second Coming of Jesus when writing to the Thessalonian brethren. To them He uttered, “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope” (I Thess. 4:13). In Paul’s encouragement of these children of God, he alerts his readers to the fact there will be those who will have eternal sorrow. The kind which lasts forever, and has no end. The Holy Spirit indicated God would exact vengeance on “them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power” (II Thess. 1:8-9). May we live, teach, speak, and behave in such a way there will be no such sorrow in our lives.

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm