

# Mourning the Death of Man

Matthew 5:4

*Halifax: 19 October 2003*

## **Introduction:**

The Lord Jesus Christ left the glories of heaven to come and bring blessing into this fallen sinful world.

- Matthew emphasises that He came to establish a kingdom of righteousness here in this sinful world where there was no righteousness.
- In His kingdom,
  - lost sinful men and women can be forgiven and cleansed from all their unrighteousness.
  - There is no greater blessing for a lost, fallen, sinful, cursed, perishing world!

In chapters 5-7 Matthew presents to us the Sermon on the Mount, which is the manifesto of King Jesus.

- This is the doctrine He preached as He went from city to city in Galilee!
- And you see that it is a manifesto that begins with blessings!
  - This is altogether fitting for the One Who did not come to curse, but to bless.

Each of these blessings (or beatitudes as they are called) tell us two things—

- First, they tell you the **character** of those who obtain His blessing...
- Then, they tell you the **future** of those who are blessed in His kingdom.

Last week, we looked at the first beatitude:

- Matthew 5:3: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

I showed you that those who have obtained the blessing of Christ know their own poverty...

- They know what they are apart from King Jesus.
- They realise that they have no resources in themselves to live the glorious lives they were created to live.
  - Not only do they need His counsel and strength as they did from the start...
  - But now, because of their rebellion, they need His forgiveness and mercy also.
- You must be poor in spirit to be blessed in this kingdom...
  - You must come to God presenting nothing of your own to gain His approval...

- looking only to King Jesus to provide for you!

TRANS> Humility is the very starting point for those who would obtain the blessing of King Jesus!

- That is the first beatitude.

Today, we come to the second beatitude:

- Matthew 5:4: “Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.”
  - You can see how this characteristic naturally flows out of the first.
  - It is only follows that those who have seen their desperate poverty before God and that all their righteousness is as filthy rags would mourn before Him!
- The word that is translated **mourn** here is one that ordinarily speaks of mourning someone’s death!
  - It is the strongest of nine Greek words that are used in the New Testament to refer to sadness.
  - And in this case, it refers to mourning our spiritual death in sin...

## **I. All who are blessed in Christ’s kingdom mourn because of the death of man.**

A. Ironically, such mourning about your death is a sure sign that you have been made alive!

1. It is not the dead, but the living that mourn!
  - a. The dead do not know that they are dead.
    - Have you ever seen a dead person at a funeral start to weep with the other mourners?
    - Of course not!—Only the living can mourn in the land of the living.
      - Of course I do not mean to say that there is no mourning in the world to come for those who die outside of Christ!
      - But there is no mourning in the land of the living.
  - b. The dead do not mourn because they do not know what they are missing.
    - 1) I was in the doctor’s office with Elizabeth on Tuesday,
      - And I heard a couple across the waiting room talking rather loudly with each other...
      - It soon became obvious that they were boasting about their sin—
      - The guy proceeded to tell how much beer he had consumed at a party over the weekend...
        - and then the girl tried to top his story with her own exploits.

- 2) This pair did not know that they were dead.
  - They did not know that they were boasting about how despicable they were in the eyes of the One whose judgement really matters.
  - If they had known, they would have been ashamed to boast of drunkenness...
    - They would have mourned about their sins instead of boasting about them.
  
- 3) But I have no doubt that this couple had some standard that they were living by...
  - There was some standard of what it is to be cool—
    - or what it takes to be considered a nice person,
    - or something by which they were measuring themselves.
  
  - Everybody does that!
    - But the problem is, the dead have the wrong standard.
      - They try to live up to the wrong set of expectations.
  
  - I can say with all confidence that their standard was wrong—
    - not just for me or for somebody else, but for them...
    - because only God has the right standard for human behaviour.
      - He made us and He knows what we are supposed to look like and what we ought to be.
      - He knows what true righteousness and beauty really are.

TRANS> But the dead do not mourn because they do not know God or His standard.

- Because they are dead, they do not mourn.
2. This is what makes the one who is blessed in Christ's kingdom different!
    - a. He has been raised from the dead!
      - Paul said to such persons:
        - Eph 2:1-5: And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.
    - We are all dead until God makes us alive!

b. And as soon as you are made alive, you start to mourn about being dead in sin!

1) In Romans 7, Paul tells us this...

- He had once thought he was alive apart from Christ.
- But once he came to life in Christ, then he realised how dead he really was on his own...
  - It was not until then that he really began to mourn about the sin in his life.
  - It was then that he began to say,
    - “O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from this body of death?”

2) He was alive before God so he began to see things from God’s perspective.

- He described his new condition this way:
  - “I delight in the law of God according to the inward man...”
    - He had a new standard and it was God’s standard.
      - The way God had appointed was the way he now wanted to go—
        - all other ways were not to him corrupt and ugly and undesirable.
- But now that he was alive to God and to God’s way,
  - he mourned because he found in himself an inability to keep God’s way. He said:
    - “I delight in the law of God according to the inward man, but I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am, who will deliver me from this body of death.”
  - The mourning began when life began.

c. That is the way that everyone who is blessed in the kingdom of Christ is.

- They all start to mourn about the death that is in them as soon as God gives them life!

1) They all start to mourn because they see how much they are missing whenever they miss God’s way...

- The Spirit of God has shown them their sin for what it is...

- He has shown them the beauty and glory of God and of His way...
- He has shown them what will become of the wicked.
- As Jesus said,
  - the Spirit convinces them of sin, righteousness, and judgement.

2) When this happens, you can't go on in the way you were.

- You will mourn with a godly sorrow that leads to repentance.
- 2 Cor 7:10 distinguishes between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow...
  - Worldly sorrow is the sorrow the world has for not living up to some expectation...
    - It is only a foretaste of death because it leads to death.
  - But godly sorrow is the sorrow that comes from dealing with God.
    - It leads to genuine repentance.

B. If you are alive in Christ, you will find many reasons to mourn!

1. You will mourn because of the death you find in yourself...

a. Like Paul, you will see death in yourself because you will see that you have not been totally swept up into God's glorious way!

- You still have far too much of your own way...
  - You will weep because of the corruption that remains in your members.
  - You will say,
    - "Who will deliver me from this body of death?"

b. You will mourn because you will see

- your loose tongue,
- your lack of self-control
- your stubbornness and pride
- your lack of concern for others
- your irritability
- your complaining and excuse making

c. And your sorrow will be multiplied...

- because you will understand how your sin dishonours God...
  - how your sinful ways confuse others about who God is and what it means to be Christ's disciple...
  - how your sin brings God's chastisement.

2. And when you are made alive, you will also mourn because of the death you find in your children...
  - a. You were given the glorious ability to reproduce children, made in the image of God...
    - This was our glory until we fell,
      - but now it is our shame that we bring forth children in sin...
    - We bring forth the corrupted image of God,
      - That will make you mourn if you are His.
  - b. You will not smile at the sins of your cute little boy or girl because you will see those sins for what they are!
    - 1) For example, in your little boy's pleading for a toy and his refusal to take no for an answer...
      - You will see his refusal to honour you as a manifestation of death in him—
        - It betrays an unwillingness to accept it when God says no.
      - Unless there is repentance,
        - how can that boy restrain his lusts when he becomes a young man?
        - He will want a car he can't afford,
          - and he will steal—
            - perhaps by taking on a debt that will keep him from tithing...
            - or perhaps he will lie and cheat to get ahead.
        - Such a young man will be powerless before sexual temptations and over indulgence in drink.
        - The sin will not lie dormant, but it will grow up with him...
      - 2) You will lament in your little girl who sees nothing as sacred!
        - There she is, rummaging through your purse or through the drawers at the neighbour's house...
          - She has no reverence, no fear about exploring what she has not been given permission to explore.
        - Should you expect her to suddenly develop this fear when sexual temptation comes knocking at her door?
          - Will she somehow consider her body sacred when she chooses clothes and friends?

- Will she consider God's covenant sacred when an unbeliever wants to marry her?

TRANS> A parent who has learned to mourn over his own sin will mourn over the sin of his children...

- And whether you are a parent or not...
3. You will also mourn for the death you see in your friends and relations.
    - a. When you learn to mourn, you can no more rejoice in their sins than you can in your own.
      - You will not be like those in Prov 2:14 who:
        - rejoice in doing evil, *And* delight in the perversity of the wicked;
      - You will not laugh at their sins with them,
        - but you will mourn for them.
      - It will pain you to see them on the path to destruction and you will do all you can to call them away from it.
    - b. Like David, you will say to God:
      - Psalm 119:136: Rivers of water run down from my eyes, Because *men* do not keep Your law.
    - c. You will weep even for your enemies who persecute you...
      - Not only because they have hurt you...
        - but even more because of where they are headed if they do not repent!
      - Paul's Jewish brethren sought to kill him,
        - but instead of growing bitter toward them,
        - he grew more and more tender toward them—
      - In Romans 9:1-3 he said:
        - I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh.
      - If you have truly learned to mourn about sin,
        - you may not be able to honestly say what Paul says here,
          - but you will certainly not have a spirit of malice and vindictiveness toward those who are on the brink of Hell!
        - You will have great sorrow and grief in your heart for them!

TRANS> And so you see that you will mourn for yourself, your children, your friends and relations, and your enemies...

- but in addition to all these,
4. You will mourn when you see sin and death in the church!
- a. Mourning for the church is a distinguishing mark of God's elect...
    - In Ezekiel 9:4,
      - God is preparing to judge Israel, and He sends out an angel to mark out all those who are faithful to Him.
      - And listen to how the angel is instructed to identify the faithful!
        - Ezek 9:4: and the LORD said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it."
    - Blessed are they that mourn over the state of the church, they are God's people!
  - b. There is a lot of idolatry in the church of Jesus Christ for us to mourn about...
    - 1) All through the ages God has rebuked His church for prostituting herself in trying to seduce her neighbours!
      - Rather than being holy and chaste, she becomes easy...
      - She calls out to her lovers and bids them to come...
        - In Ezekiel, God says that His bride is worse than a harlot because rather than receiving pay from her lovers, she pays them to come in to her!
        - Brethren, this is what the church does when she perverts her worship to try to seduce the world to come into her courts!
        - This is what she does when she perverts God's doctrine:
          - 2 Tim. 4:3-4: For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.
    - 2) If there was ever a day when that is true, it is today!
      - There is far too little jealousy for pure worship!
      - Far too little zeal for preaching that is true to God's word!
      - People don't want to hear about God's holiness and wrath, so we take all that out of our songs and out of our sermons.



- People want to have a good time at church, so we turn it into a social club with no demands.
  - People want to feel good about themselves, so we stop talking about sin and judgement.
  - People don't understand why God commands us to exclude those who will not repent of fornication or sodomy or idolatry from our congregations, so we welcome them all...
    - We even get the point that we ordain them to the ministry!
  - Brothers and sisters,
    - these are not matters indifferent!
    - It is idolatry and infidelity to God and it ought to make you mourn!
- c. The Bible is full of examples of mourning over the church's sins!
- It has always been a characteristic of God's elect!
- 1) There is the whole book of Lamentations in which Jeremiah laments with the attitude he expresses in Jeremiah 9:1:
    - Jer 9:1: Oh, that my head were waters, And my eyes a fountain of tears, That I might weep day and night For the slain of the daughter of my people!
  - 2) There is Daniel 9 where Daniel presents a lamentation to the LORD:
    - Daniel 9:3-6: Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land..."
  - 3) There is our own Lord Jesus Christ who wept over Jerusalem...
    - Luke 19:41-42: Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things *that make* for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

TRANS> So you see, Christian, that you have many reasons to mourn—

- If this weeping is not there, it shows that a new heart is not there!
  - It shows that new life in the Spirit is not there...
  - It shows that you are not one who is blessed in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

C. But let me tell you the only thing that can produce this mourning in you.

1. I don't want you to put on an artificial mourning—

- It must not be a superficial thing,
- but a genuine brokenness over sin that grows up with your faith.

TRANS> Now let me tell you where it comes from!

2. True mourning comes when you see Jesus Christ crucified because of your sins.

a. The Lord makes this clear in Zechariah chapter 12.

- In verse 10 He says:
  - And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his* only *son*, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem...

b. Like the people Peter preached to in Acts 2.

- You mourn when you realise that you crucified the LORD of glory
- That is what cuts you to the heart and convinces you that there is something to mourn about!

3. It is not the law of God that breaks your heart, it is the grace of God!

a. The mourning that Jesus speaks about of his blessed ones is the mourning they have when they see what Jesus willingly did for them!

- Their hearts are broken when they see His suffering love for them!
  - What room is there for callousness about sin with a Saviour like this?
  - What room is there for hardness of heart and stubborn rebellion?

b. Do you remember the prostitute who washed Jesus' feet with her tears?

- According to Jesus, it was not the law of God, but the grace of God that drew those tears:
  - Luke 7:44-48: He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped *them* with the hair of her head. You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. Therefore I say to you, her sins, *which are* many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, *the same* loves little." Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."
- It was not the law that drew tears from this woman, but grace...

- It was the grace of sins forgiven.
- Indeed, the law has its place—
  - It is good because it shows you your sin...
  - But you will never really mourn until you see Christ's body broken on the cross because of your sins and His blood shed for the remission of your sins.

TRANS> Now brothers and sisters, if you have learned to mourn like this,

- there is a wonderful promise for you in the second beatitude!

## **II. If you have learned to mourn like this, you will surely be comforted!**

- “Blessed are they that mourn, for they will be comforted!”

A. Like the prostitute who washed Jesus feet, and like the Jews in Acts 2,

- you will find comfort in the very same cross that caused you to mourn!

1. The godly Jews looked for Jesus as the Comforter because they knew that He would come to save them from their sins.

- In Luke 2, Godly Simeon is presented to us as a man

- “just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel.”

a. This hope had been given to all who mourned over their sin in Isaiah 61:1-3 where the Messiah speaks through His prophet, saying:

- “The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”

- Jesus says that He will comfort all who mourn by making them trees of righteousness!

- He will take away the sin about which they mourn!

b. In conjunction with this,

- Isaiah 40 had promised comfort to the mourners in Israel...

- that their iniquity would be pardoned because they would receive from the LORD's hand double for all their sins.

- This payment was made, of course, by the Lord Jesus Christ whose voice is heard through David in Psalm 40, saying:
  - Isa 40:6-9: Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book *it is* written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law *is* within my heart."
- Here is the assurance that Jesus will come and do everything that God's righteous law demands of His people...
  - Not the mere sacrifices of bulls and goats,
    - but His own personal obedience even to the point of death on the cross to atone for their sins.
  - And having fulfilled God's righteous requirement for us, Jesus now proclaims the good news of righteousness to His people:
    - I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness In the great assembly; Indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O LORD, You Yourself know.
  - This is the righteousness He has secured for all who mourn because of their sin and misery!
    - He has met the law's demands!
    - What comfort there is in this!

2. Do you know this comfort?

- a. When Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount,
  - this comfort was something yet future because He had not finished His work on the cross.
  - It belonged to His hearers by faith in what He *would* do,
    - but they did not have the comfort of seeing Him complete this work for them as we do now.
- b. For us, this comfort is already ours!
  - We can see that by His obedience, even to the point of death on the cross, we truly have received double for all our sins!
  - 2 Thes 2:16 refers to Him as:
    - our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope by grace.
    - This is a consolation is yours already if you belong to Him.

TRANS> But this is not the end of the consolation that God's mourners have!

B. You also have the comfort of the destruction of death...

1. Now that Jesus has been raised, all who believe in Him are said to be raised with Him to walk in newness of life!
  - a. In Romans 6, Paul tells believers to consider themselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
    - He tells you that you can look at yourself in this way because you have been crucified with Christ and raised with Him to walk in newness of life.
    - You were dead apart from Him,
      - but in believing you are united to Him...
      - and this union is the source of new life for you.
  - b. This is what I mentioned earlier from Ephesians 2:1...
    - You He has made alive who were dead in trespasses and sins!
    - It is a resurrection from the death of sin to live in Christ—
      - to live gloriously as God’s image through the same power that raised Christ from the dead!
  - c. It is a great consolation to be filled with new life from Jesus Christ!
2. And once this life is begun, it continues to grow up in you!
  - a. It is not a work that is done all at once, but a progressive work.
    - The consolation is that He who begins this good work in you will continue it until He returns to make it complete.
  - b. He works in us through the means of grace so that “we grow up in all things into Him,”
    - and are enabled more and more “to die to sin and live to righteousness.”
    - We abide in Him and His word abides in us so that we are able to bear much fruit.
      - Without Him, we are a wild branch that bears no fruit...
      - But in Him there is this encouragement for you if you hate sin and mourn over it...
        - there is this encouragement of new life appearing in you...
        - there is fruit!
  - This is a tremendous consolation!

TRANS> But all the comfort that comes from knowing that Christ has redeemed us and from knowing that we are alive and growing in Him is still not complete!

- There is still sin that remains in us, and there is death all around us...
  - There are still many things that cause us to mourn...
- C. But the promise of Jesus for all you who mourn is that **you will be comforted...**
- There will be a complete end to all your mourning!
1. The book of Revelation speaks of that great day when the Lord will wipe away every tear from our eyes!
    - a. On that day, you who mourn now because you are mocked and ridiculed for your faith will be vindicated!
      - God will reveal you before the world as His sons...
      - And no one will mock then!
        - No one will call you foolish then!
        - No one will make light of the truth of God then!
    - b. And in that day, Christ will remove everything that offends from His kingdom!
      - There will be no more Devil to tempt you!
      - There will be no more temptation of any kind.
      - There will be no more disease and infirmity to afflict you!
      - There will be no more shortages and deprivation and losses!
      - There will be no more hatred and war and slander and bitterness—only love and harmony and grace.
      - There will be no more sin in your heart to trouble you and cause you to say,
        - “O wretched man that I am, who will deliver me from this body of death!”

TRANS> There will be nothing to make you mourn—

- Everything to make you rejoice.
- c. In that day, you will finally have a clear view of the one you love—
    - The One you can only see through a dark glass now...
    - Then you will behold Him face to face and you will spend eternity marvelling at His glory!
      - There will be no end to the discovery of His beauty and excellent sweetness!

TRANS> This, brothers and sisters, is the consolation that God has in store for all who mourn now!

- There will be an end to the things that cause you to mourn.
2. This hope is your chief comfort even now!
- a. Without this hope, there is no way you could continue to live the Christian life.
    - 1) The apostle Paul tells us that if there is no resurrection of the dead—
      - we are of all men most miserable!
      - All of our consolations of the forgiveness of sin and of being made alive in Christ avail nothing if they are only temporary relief!
        - If it all ends in death,
          - if the forgiveness and the new life are only temporary and do not culminate in everlasting happiness with God...
          - Then there is no real comfort for anyone!
    - 2) As long as we remain in this body of death and in this world of death,
      - there will be much mourning for us...
      - and much sorrow for us to bear!
      - It cannot be that the heirs of the glorious kingdom of Christ can be satisfied with this world of sin and misery.
        - As long as you are here, groaning will continue;
          - lamentation will continue.
          - You cannot be satisfied as long as sin remains if you are truly born again.
  - b. The modern church in North America is too much a stranger to this mourning!
    - 1) We are full of frivolity...
      - God commands that we mourn:
      - In James 4, after accusing the church in his day of spiritual adultery, James tells them what to do!
        - James 4:8-10: Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.
        - That is what the church is supposed to do because of her sin.

- 2) But our response has been like that of the people in Isaiah's day:
- Isa 22:12-13: And in that day the Lord GOD of hosts called for weeping and for mourning, for baldness and for girding with sackcloth. But instead, joy and gladness, slaying oxen and killing sheep, eating meat and drinking wine: "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!"
  - They rejoiced when they should have been mourning!
    - In Luke 6, Jesus says to such behaviour...
      - "Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep"
- 3) Should we take it lightly when there is so much covetousness,
- so much adultery,
  - so much divorce,
  - so much bitterness,
  - so much complaining,
  - so much gossip and slander...
  - so little reverence,
  - so little fear of God,
  - so little love for God and neighbour,
  - so little bearing of the cross,
  - so little self-denial,
  - so little true joy in the Lord?
- 4) The laughter of fools is in our midst!
- Solomon says,
    - Ec 7:6: For like the crackling of thorns under a pot, So *is* the laughter of the fool.
    - There is entertainment,
      - there is silly frivolous music,
      - there is dancing,
      - but there is no mourning,
      - no repentance,
      - no sorrow...
    - It is a laughter that will soon be put out because it is a laughter that has no foundation!
    - There is a laughter that comes in salvation that is a right laughter!
      - It is the laughter that comes when we who are unfruitful are given life by God's grace!
      - It is the laughter that comes when we who are captives are set free to serve God!



- It is the laughter of amazement and joy that God's grace should come to such sinners!
- c. But as long as we are in this world, there is also to be mourning with this laughter.
- 1) This is an ever-present characteristic of those who are blessed in Christ's kingdom.
    - As long as there is sin in their lives and as long as there is sin in the world, they will weep and mourn.
  - 2) But you are not to sorrow as those who have no hope!
    - a) You have an objective hope...
      - There is good that is coming in the future—
      - Comfort is on the way, the sin that troubles you now will be completely abolished...
        - And so will all the misery that that sin brings!
        - This hope is sure because it is grounded on the promise of God.
    - b) The world's hope is altogether different...
      - It is purely subjective.
        - It is a good feeling that things will turn out okay...
        - It gives them a sense a relief so they can keep going...
        - But it has no foundation in God's promise.
          - The hope of the wicked will perish...
          - The sorrow of the wicked is only a foretaste of the greater sorrows yet to come.

## **Conclusion**

And so I would urge each of you to examine yourself.

- Do you know what it is to mourn about your sin?
- Are you looking for the consolation that Jesus gives,
  - or are you finding your treasure in this world?

These are very important questions...

- There will be no comfort for you in the end if you do not learn to mourn now.
  - Now is a time for weeping,
  - the day of rejoicing will come soon enough!

- As long as Jesus was in this world,
  - He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief...
  - But now He finds pleasures at God's right hand forevermore.
  - You are called to follow Him.