

Sorrow Pt 1 The essence of sorrow

This is the start of a new topic on “sorrow”. Why provide a teaching on sorrow? Because the common link between forgiveness (previous teaching) and repentance (our next teaching) is sorrow. In this study we will cover three points- (I) From man’s original sin God promised sorrow to his descendants, (ii) when Israel despised God’s commandments, He brought upon them- terror, consumption and caused sorrow of heart, and (iii) those who hasten after another god- their sorrows shall be multiplied.

First we compile a meaning of sorrow from searching the scriptures, and establishing links and understanding.

Trouble is linked to sorrow

“The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow” (Ps.116: 3).

Heaviness is linked to sorrow

“Yet I will distress Ariel, and there shall be heaviness and sorrow: and it shall be unto me as Ariel” (Is.29: 2).

To be in sorrow is to be made sorry

“Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing” (2 Cor.7: 9).

To be in affliction causes sorrows

Ex 3:7 And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

With sorrow there is torment

“How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow” (Rev.18: 7).

With sorrow there is crying- Rev 21:4- “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain...”

Sorrow is likened to anguish- as a woman in travail

“Damascus is waxed feeble, and turneth herself to flee, and fear hath seized on her: anguish and sorrows have taken her, as a woman in travail” (Jer.49: 24).

In sorrow of heart the spirit is broken - Prov 15:13- “A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken”.

Sorrow is linked to mourning

“As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor” (Esth.9: 22).

The opposite of sorrow is joy

“He that begetteth a fool [doeth it] to his sorrow: and the father of a fool hath no joy” (Prov 17:21).

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. From man’s original sin - God promised sorrow to his descendants

Because Eve sinned and ate of the fruit, God greatly multiplied the sorrow when women bring forth children “Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee” (Gen.3: 16).

Because Adam hearkened unto the voice of his wife and ate the fruit in disobedience to God, the ground is cursed, and in sorrow man will eat of it all the days of his life.

“And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life” (Gen.3: 17).

2. When Israel despised God's commandments, He brought upon them- terror, consumption and caused sorrow of heart

"I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it" (Lev. 26: 16).

3. Those who hasten after another god- their sorrows shall be multiplied

"Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god: their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips" (Ps.16:4).

An illustration to help apply the teaching to our life today.

Associated with being poor is sorrow- but the salvation of God will set us on high- Ps.69:29- "But I am poor and sorrowful: let thy salvation, O God, set me up on high".

In the street ministry we see a significant level of sorrow in the lost, those who have nothing, no food, no family, no dignity, no pride, no hope, no future. For those who have been there for a large percentage of their life, you see many of the aspects of sorrow identified in scripture- like hardness. Regardless of whether their sorrow is of their own doing or not, it is sad to see. Hence, why some who minister on the street- bring barbecues and feed the homeless. Even the Hari Krishnas recognise the benefit in giving away food, but then they share their false teachings, and only serve to, unknowingly, bring more sorrow on their heads.

Question to think about.

- i) What is the link between sin and sorrow? ii) Why is sorrow better than laughter?
- iii) In times of sorrow- what are we to be mindful of? iv) How can Jesus help the sorrowful in heart?

Our answer from the scriptures.

- i) The wages of sin is **death**

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom.6: 23).

The sorrow of the world works **death**

"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death." (2 Cor.7: 10). See also Ps.32: 10.

- ii) Sorrow is better than laughter - for by the sadness of the countenance is the heart made better
"Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better" (Eccl.7: 3).

- iii) Be mindful as there is a level of hardness in sorrow- Job 6: 10- "Then should I yet have comfort; yea, I would harden myself in sorrow: let him not spare; for I have not concealed the words of the Holy One".

- iv) It was foretold that LORD's servant (Messiah) would bear our griefs and carry our sorrows

[3] He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were [our] faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

[4] Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. (Is.53: 3, 4).

Let us warn them that are wealthy and love silver- they will not be satisfied with silver. All their days shall they eat in darkness and will have much sorrow and wrath with their sickness

[10] He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase....

[14] But those riches perish by evil travail: and he begetteth a son, and there is nothing in his hand.

[16] And this also is a sore evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind?

[17] All his days also he eateth in darkness, and he hath much sorrow and wrath with his sickness.

(Eccl.5:10,14,16,17)

The lost only have sorrow because of sin, they lay up their treasure on earth where it can be corrupted by moth or rust (Matt.6: 19), but Jesus offers eternal life, hope, help, and healing from sorrow and sin because He has borne our griefs, carried our sorrows, and died for our sins. Amen!