

Sorrow Pt 2 Godly sorrow

This is our second and final teaching on the word sorrow from the scriptures. In our previous study we covered 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.

In this study we will cover three points- (i) the sorrow of this world is death, (ii) the righteous are sorrowful- example of Jesus- exceeding sorrowful, and (iii) when believers sin we are to have godly sorrow.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. The sorrow of this world works death

"...the sorrow of the world worketh death" (2 Cor.7:10)

2. The righteous are sorrowful: example of Jesus who was exceeding sorrowful

Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. (Matthew 26:38) See also Mk 14:34

3. When believers sin we are to have godly sorrow

[9] 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.

[10] For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. (2 Cor.7 :9, 10).

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

The root of all evil is the love of money: you will find yourself falling into temptation, a snare (caught up) and many foolish and hurtful lusts, which will drown any man in destruction and perdition

[9] But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

[10] For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (1 Tim.6:9-10).

Like all scripture, when we experience the truthfulness of a verse (as Paul knew how to be abased and how to abound (Phil.4: 12), the verse takes on a new dimension.

Question to think about.

- (i) Why would a believer not feel godly sorrow?
- (ii) How do we know if we have felt, or experienced godly sorrow?

Our answer from the scriptures.

I) They have quenched the Spirit, so there is no conviction of sin. Potentially, due to handling the word of God deceitfully because of their sin. They have been deceived by the devil

ii) You will know you have experienced godly sorrow because you will have sorrowed to repentance, where the fruit is carefulness, indignation, fear, vehement desire, zeal and revenge.

[10] For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

[11] For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter. (2 Cor.7: 10,11). Godly sorrow will motivate you from your heart to depart from iniquity - which is the fear of the LORD (Prov.16: 6), with indignation (wrath) hate evil (Ps.97: 10), have a vehement desire to flee youthful lusts, and be zealous of good works (Tit.2: 4).

DO NOT wait for everything around you to be brought to nought, or the LORD to chasten you whereby you are made- "weak and sickly among you, and many sleep" (1 Cor.11:30). But rather, let us exhibit godly sorrow when we sin- that motivates us to fear the LORD, despise evil, and so depart from our iniquity.. Next week, we will look at repentance, because godly sorrow worketh repentance. Amen!!