
A Little While (John 16:16-22)

1. We Will Have Sorrows In This Fallen World

We live in a fallen world governed by a fallen angel and we have a fallen nature.

2. The Risen Christ Will Turn Our Sorrows Into Lasting Joy

Perspective on “a little while”

- Christ ignores the whole matter of *time*.
- He defines this as the experience of sorrow and pain *in comparison* to what comes after it.
- He is focused only for the inevitable *outcome* – the increase of joy.

Two Perspectives On Joy

Perspective 1: The world’s joy - that comes from things that perish - is temporary. (v.20)

Luke 6:21, 25

Psalms 73:17-20

Perspective 2: God brings joy to our lives, not by substitution, but by transformation. (vv.20, 21)

Psalms 30:5b

Summary

Revelation 2:20

5. QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL CONTEMPLATION

- a. In times of difficulty, we are always concerned about how long a testing is going to last and wondering why we have to go through it. How can/will I allow my understanding on “a little while’ to help me endure the storm in the meantime? How does it make you feel to know that your sorrow is temporary?
- b. Take Home Question
Turn to Psalm 73 and prayerfully read it three times.
Meditate on it and learn how God turned the psalmist’s sorrow into joy.

6. QUESTIONS FOR CELL DISCUSSION

- a. God brings joy to our lives, not by substitution, but by transformation (vv.20, 21). Share a specific (transformational) season / incident in your life through which God used to produce joy in you eventually.
- b. “Smooth seas do not make skilful sailors.” – If storms in life are for our ultimate good, should we try to avoid it - through prayer, medicine, better circumstances, etc.?