Do You Mourn?

Springtime is here and the world is completely brimming with new life. Trees are filling out or have filled out, flowers are blooming, and the temperatures are nice and lovely this time of year, until the harshness of the Texas summer comes.

Many good things are happening around here… new beginnings are occurring; seniors are graduating from High School… and are contemplating life after gradeschool, and beyond. It is a time for joy… God's creation shows it's joy in renewal, our children grow and learn, reach for goals and become adults, and we celebrate those things, because we should. They are blessings from the Lord who is the Great Giver of all things good.

Joy is good and it feels right at this time of year with all of these things going on, but let me ask you… Do you mourn?

Turn with me to **Matthew 5** and let's look at the words of our Redeemer and His expressions of "the Beatitudes". I want you to notice tonight **verse 4**, which reads… "**Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted."**

And I'll ask the question again… Do you mourn? Some of you might be wondering, "Do I mourn for what?"… And that is the question. What is Jesus talking about when He says "Blessed are those who mourn…" What do they mourn for? Let's take a minute to explore that thought.

Is He talking about the kind of mourning we think of when someone passes from this earth into eternity? Is He talking about mourning the loss of a relationship with someone who was close to you? Is He talking about mourning the making of a mistake in our lives… that we wish we had never made? No, although all of those instances have some commonality with the type of mourning that Christ was talking about… in that there is a sadness present in all of them that is inescapable.

The type of mourning that our Lord is talking about is the type of mourning that springs from a healthy and vital relationship with God. I know that sounds rather incongruent but let me explain further by asking some questions of us all…

Do you want to go home? Do you mourn the fact that your home is in heaven and you are here… do you long for heaven and all of it's blessings… do you long to see the glory of God and of His precious Son? We should all want that so much that it makes us mourn…

The apostle Paul tells us in **Philippians 3:20**… **"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ…"** Do you eagerly await our Savior's return and the claiming of your place in the homeland, your inheritance? It is good to mourn for our homeland with God and His Son… Jesus says that we are blessed for doing this.

Do you mourn your own imperfections and the fact that you cannot be perfect on this earth and so serve the Lord as He originally intended for us all to do? We were all originally created to serve God perfectly and to glorify Him with our lives and our service to Him, but that purpose was perverted by the fall of mankind into sin. Do you mourn the fact that we all are sinful and so cannot always do exactly as God would have us do?

Paul through inspiration expressed our sinfulness well… when he said in **Romans 3:10**… "**As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one…"** Then he goes on later in the Roman letter to express the frustration for all of us about sin's effects on our lives when he said in **Romans 7:19-20**… "**For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me."**… Paul goes

on in **verse 24** of the same chapter to sum it up when he says… "**O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?**"

Thanks be to God for Jesus Christ and the sacrifice made at the cross, that we can all have this deliverance. Do we mourn our own wretchedness in sin? We should… it is right and proper for us to do so. We should mourn for the day when, as Paul said in **Philippians 3:21**… The Lord Jesus Christ **"will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself."**

There is great comfort in the promise that is made to us here… when we look at our original text for tonight in **Matthew 5:4** where Christ said **"For they shall be comforted**"… this is what He meant. We will be transformed and taken home if we are faithful until death. Do we want that so much that it makes us mournful? We should brethren…

Do we mourn for those who are lost in sin… for those who are not saved… for those who are in bondage to sin and in many cases don't have a clue as to their state before the Lord? Do we mourn for those who are so sincere religiously, but are so confused that despite their sincerity, and despite their zealousness… they are lost? Let me submit to you that we certainly should. That is one thing that should make us the very sad… and should bring out our compassion to the fullest. Our Lord said in **Luke 19:10**… **"for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."** Christ came to this earth to reclaim that which was lost in sin and death… namely our souls… all of them. No matter who they are… He wants all of them. God shows no partiality towards any one, all souls belong to Him, and it grieves the Lord to see the state that humanity is in with regards to sin. If it makes God grieve… it should make us mourn.

Now that we have stated what our Lord was talking about when He said, "**Blessed are those who mourn**"… What can we do in our mourning… what impetus can it give us? Well, we can keep our minds more focused on the promises God has given to us regarding our inheritance in heaven… we can pray more than we do to stay in touch with the Lord.

We can read God's word more than we do, and in doing so we can strive to sow the seeds of goodness in our minds that we might bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

We can reach out to a world that is starved for love and godliness by preaching Christ in our lives… through our lives. We need to teach those around us about Jesus Christ and Him crucified. If we do this we will be fulfilling the command, given to us as the body of Christ, found in the Great Commission. But let us always remember this; the best sermons are sometimes not the ones that are spoken… they are the ones that are seen in the lives around us… in that which is practiced by Christians everyday. Through our lives we can tell the world around us what Paul said so beautifully 2000 years ago in **Romans 6:23**… **"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

If you do not have the gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus and would like to lay hold of it for your salvation… to save yourself from the wages of sin… then you need to obey the Lord's command found in **Acts 2:38**. You need to put on Christ in baptism as illustrated in **Romans 6:3-4** for the remission of your sins, immersed in water to stand clean before God, raised to walk in newness of life. You need to do this so you can have access to the promises that God has so lovingly given to us. There is no other way to be saved. Jesus said in **John 14:6**, **"I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through Me"**, and Peter seals this thought with his words found in **Acts 4:12** when he says "**Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."** Jesus' name is the only one by which we will be saved, and you must be baptized into Christ… in order to wear His name. There is no other way.