

“The Thrill of Victory, The Agony of Defeat”



**Images Of Defeat And Sorrow Versus
Images Of Victory And Joy**

“Some Mocked”

- Acts 17:30-32 - “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead. 32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, ‘We will hear you again on this matter.’”

“Some Mocked”

- The resurrection of Christ is the most important event in history; it is the foundation of faith.
 - Rom. 1:4 - “Declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”
 - Matt. 16:18 - “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”
 - Acts 2:47 - “And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

“Some Mocked”

- 1Cor. 15:13-19 - “Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up--if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.”

“Some Mocked”

- By the resurrection, we are justified.
 - Rom. 4:24-25 - “It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.”
 - Rom. 6:5-6 - “For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.”

“Some Mocked”

- Baptism saves by the resurrection.
 - 1Peter 3:21 - “There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”
 - Col. 2:12 - “buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”
 - 1Peter 1:3 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

“We Will Not Walk Therein”

Jer. 6:10-16 - “To whom shall I speak and give warning, That they may hear? Indeed their ear is uncircumcised, And they cannot give heed. Behold, the word of the LORD is a reproach to them; They have no delight in it.

Therefore I am full of the fury of the LORD. I am weary of holding it in. ‘I will pour it out on the children outside, And on the assembly of young men together; For even the husband shall be taken with the wife, The aged with him who is full of days. And their houses shall be turned over to others, Fields and wives together; For I will stretch out My hand Against the inhabitants of the land,’ says the LORD. ‘Because from the least of them even to the greatest of them, Everyone is given to covetousness; And from the prophet even to the priest, Everyone deals falsely. They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, “Peace, peace!” When there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; Nor did they know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time I punish them, They shall be cast down,’ says the LORD. Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘**We will not walk therein.**’”

“We Will Not Walk Therein”

- If we want to have any hope of heaven, we cannot allow our selves to be tempted to sidle up to the world and live like it does. We must seek the old paths:
 - Psalm 119:105 - “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.”
 - Rom. 6:4 - “Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”
 - 1John 1:7 - “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

“We Will Not Walk Therein”

- 2Cor. 5:7 - “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”
- Rom. 10:17 - “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
- Col. 3:17 - “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”
- 1Peter 4:11 - “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God.”

“We Will Not Walk Therein”

- Gal. 1:6-10 - “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. 10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.”

“Who Have Strayed Concerning The Truth”

- 2Tim. 2:17-18 - “And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, 18 who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.”

“Who Have Strayed Concerning The Truth”

- How do brethren err from the truth?
 - They succumb to materialism.
 - 1Tim. 6:10 - “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”
 - Luke 8:14 - “Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.”

“Who Have Strayed Concerning The Truth”

- Luke 12:16-21 - “Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: ‘The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, “What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?” So he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.’” But God said to him, “Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?” So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.””

“Who Have Strayed Concerning The Truth”

- How do brethren err from the truth?
 - They succumb to desires of the flesh.
 - 1Cor. 10:6-8 - “Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. 7 And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. 8 Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell.”

“Who Have Strayed Concerning The Truth”

- How do brethren err from the truth?
 - They succumb to false doctrine.
 - 1John 4:1, 6 - “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world... 6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.”

“Who Have Strayed Concerning The Truth”

- How do brethren err from the truth?
 - They succumb to spiritual laziness.
 - Rev. 2:10 - “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”
 - Heb. 5:12 - “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.”
 - Regardless of the cause, those erring from the truth are lost.

“Concerning The Faith Have Suffered Shipwreck”

- 1Tim. 1:19-20 - “Having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, *concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck*, 20 of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.”
- Matt. 16:26 - “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?”

“And The Door Was Shut”

- Matt. 25:1-13 (vs. 10) - “And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; *and the door was shut.*”
- Gen. 7:15-16 - “And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life. 16 So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in.”

“And The Door Was Shut”

- The majority will find the door shut.
 - Luke 13:23-27 - “Then one said to Him, ‘Lord, are there few who are saved?’ And He said to them, 24 ‘Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. 25 When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, “Lord, Lord, open for us,” and He will answer and say to you, “I do not know you, where you are from,” 26 then you will begin to say, “We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.” 27 But He will say, “I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.” 28 There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, *when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God -- and yourselves thrust out.*”

“Depart From Me”

- Matt. 7:21-23 - “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

“Depart From Me”

- So many will stand in shock as they hear those words on Judgment Day.
 - Those failing to use their talents
 - Matt. 25:30 - “And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
 - Those who are not benevolent
 - Matt. 25:41 - “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

“Depart From Me”

- So many will stand in shock as they hear these words on Judgment Day.
 - Those who do not obey the Gospel.
 - 2Thes. 1:7-9 - “And to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”

“Go Away For Now”

- Acts 24:22, 24-25 - “But when Felix heard these things, having more accurate knowledge of the Way, he adjourned the proceedings and said, ‘When Lysias the commander comes down, I will make a decision on your case.’ 24 And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. 25 Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, ‘Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.’”

“Go Away For Now”

- As far as we know, Felix never had another opportunity to obey the Gospel.
 - Acts 24:27 - “But after two years Porcius Festus succeeded Felix; and Felix, wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul bound.”

“Go Away For Now”

- One never knows when the last opportunity to obey the Gospel will come.
 - James 4:14 - “Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”
 - 2Cor. 6:2 - “...Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

“Almost”

- Acts 26:28 - “Then Agrippa said to Paul, You almost persuade me to become a Christian.”
- Many believers will be lost.
 - John 12:42 - “Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue.”

“Almost”

- Believing is “almost”; obeying is “altogether.”
 - Acts 26:29 - “And Paul said, ‘I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains.’”
 - Matt. 7:24-27 - “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”