

Should Christians Grieve? (I Thessalonians 4:13-18)

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INTRODUCTION: *The hopeless funeral...*

I. GRIEF IN THESSALONICA AND GRIEF IN OUR LIVES

- A. In Thessalonica the cause was death of loved ones before Christ's return (vv.13-18)
- B. In our lives, the causes are varied.....
- C. What exactly is grief?
- D. Does St.Paul say that grief is the *opposite* of belief ?
(Should Christians grieve?)

II. CHRISTIANS CAN AND DO GRIEVE, BUT NOT LIKE UNBELIEVERS (verse 13)

- A. The Bible is filled with examples of God's people grieving
 1. Job (Job 3:1) **Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth**
 2. David (2 Samuel 18:33) **O Absalom my son, if only I'd died instead of you.**
 3. Israel (Psalm 137:1) **By the rivers of Babylon we wept when we remembered Zion.**
 4. Jesus (John 11:35) **Jesus wept.**
 5. Peter (Matthew 26:75) **And Peter went out and wept bitterly.**
 6. Mary Magdalene (John 20:11) **But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping.**
- B. C.S. Lewis describes his grief in *A Grief Observed*
No one ever told me that grief felt so much like fear. The same fluttering in the stomach & restlessness. There is sort of an invisible blanket between the world and me. I find it hard to take in what anyone says.. Yet I want others to be around me. Meanwhile, WHERE IS GOD? An odd by-product of my loss is that I am aware I am an embarrassment to everyone I meet. I see people who know me and as they approach me they try to
(over)

make up their minds whether they'll say something about it or who know me and as they approach me they try to make up their minds whether they'll say something about it or not. I hate it if they do AND if they don't.

III. CHRISTIANS CAN GRIEVE (Grief is not the opposite of belief)

- A. Our Heavenly Father grieves about our sin and grief
(Genesis 6:5-6)
The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become and he was grieved that He had made man on the earth and His heart was filled with pain.
- B. Jesus our Saviour grieves for those who will not trust in Him (Matthew 23:37)
O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills those sent to you. How often I wanted to gather you the way a hen gathers her chicks, but you were unwilling.
- C. Jesus has borne our sins and griefs (Isaiah 53:3-6)
He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows. And acquainted with grief and he was despised. Surely HE has borne our grief and carried our Sorrows, smitten by God and afflicted. He was wounded for our transgressions, by His stripes are healed.
+ The hymn: *What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear*
- D. We can grieve and still believe!
 1. So says St. Paul (verses 13-14, 18)
 2. So says St. John (Revelation 21:4)
He will wipe every tear from our eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order has passed away. He who sits on the throne says'Behold I make all things new.'

CONCLUSION: *"Keep your fork... the best is yet to come!"*