



The Trumpet Call

Messages and Reports

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Sorrow Turned to Joy

“A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father. . . . ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. . . ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.”—John 16:16-22

Jesus shared these prophetic words of hope and promise with His disciples. He told them that they would experience sorrow for a while, but their sorrow would turn to joy. The disciples didn't understand that they would never again see Him in human form, nor that they would see Him again in His resurrection body and also in heaven when He would sit down at the right hand of the throne of God. They would see him in post-resurrection glory and witness His ascension as He went to the Father. They would not see Him in human form anymore, but they would see Him again in His glorified state. And all mankind will see Him when He comes to judge the world. This was a word of hope and promise, a beautiful prophecy to encourage them. But they were sorrowful that He would not liberate them from Rome; He would not establish a literal Kingdom. They did not understand that through His crucifixion, death and burial He was establishing a spiritual and eternal Kingdom and that He would reign from Heaven both now and forever. They would feel sorrow at His crucifixion and death, but it would be turned into permanent joy and victory at His resurrection for this was the dawning of a new day for all.

Have you felt in your heart the suffering of Jesus as he went to Gethsemane and to the cross? Have you wept with him for the terrible condition of sin in the lives of millions around the world? We sorrow over this ugly picture of sin: the pain, the power, the penalty of sin that Jesus bore on our behalf. So Jesus said, you will weep when I go to the cross, when I die and when I am buried; but when I rise again you will rejoice and your sorrow will be turned to joy. “And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you” (vs. 22). So when Jesus arose on that first Easter morning, on that resurrection day, they began to rejoice. When we see the power of the resurrection, the glory of the risen Lord, our hearts will rejoice. This joy no man can take from us. No matter what trials, persecutions or oppositions we may have to endure, our joy is permanent because it is supernatural and eternal. We will rejoice in eternity when our crowns are laid at the feet of Jesus. I hope today that your joy is permanent in your heart. I trust you have turned from the sorrow of sin and are rejoicing in the glory of our risen Savior. The world may rejoice in the pleasure of sin, but when they truly realize that Jesus took their sins to the cross and paid the penalty for them, then they will be moved to weep in repentance and gratitude to Him. Today may all your sorrow and grief be turned to joy!