

Disappointed 1

Eccl 5:15-17

2

15 As he had come naked from his mother's womb, so will he return as he came. He will take nothing from the fruit of his labor that he can carry in his hand. **16** And this also is a grievous evil — exactly as a man is born, thus will he die. So, what is the advantage to him who toils for the wind? **17** Throughout his life he also eats in darkness with great vexation, sickness and anger.

What a bleak prospect for man, he came into this world with nothing but his skin, and that is exactly how he will go out, with nothing but his skin. And while he is here, he eats in darkness with vexation, that means trouble, sickness and anger.

2 Cor 4:3-4

3

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, **4** in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

This world, the god of this world, attacks everyone in it.

1 Peter 5:8

4

8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

At times, more often than not when we are experiencing some disappointment in our own lives, that it seems that there people who go through life and never experience disappointment of any kind, but that's just not the case. You can't live in this world and not be disappointed by it at times. That is Satan's, the god of this world, goal. But with that being said, what is the hold that this life has on us? Why do so many cling so desperately to it? Are we blind to the let downs this world brings? Do we not see the sickness that robs us of loved ones before their time that brings such pain to us, that deteriorates our physical and mental well-being to the point that we cannot function? Are we immune to the ups and downs of the financial world that affects everyone? Do we go through life and never get laid off, or never have a time when we don't want to answer the phone because of who might be on the other side of the line? Are our families so perfect that there is never a time when we are angry, or frustrated, or disappointed in our, you name them, parents, brothers and sisters, children, spouses? Are we as individuals so perfect that there has never been a time when we were disappointed in our selves? This life is a life of disappointment. The god of this world, Satan, sees to it.

That is what the Preacher in Ecclesiastes is saying. Man strives his whole life to find fulfillment, whether it be in family, riches, possessions, intellect, the number of stimuli is innumerable, yet the things of this world cannot satisfy, they are empty and vain, without substance, this world disappoints by its very nature. That is the message of Ecclesiastes.

Which brings us back to our original statement, what a bleak prospect for man, that is the thought in...

Ps 102:9

5

9 For I have eaten ashes like bread,
And mingled my drink with weeping,

How low must we be brought to find ourselves eating ashes to stay alive? How sad and depressed are we when even in the times that should be joyous our drink is mingled with our tears?

Eccl 2:23

6

23 Because all his days his task is painful and grievous; even at night his mind does not rest. This too is vanity.

This is what the Preacher says will be the expectation of man. His days will be unfulfilled by the world, they will be painful and grievous and he will be so troubled that even at night there will be no rest. Have you ever been so worked up over what is going on in your life that you can't sleep? That is what the Preacher is talking about. When the cares of the world weigh so heavy on us that they consume our every thought we fall into the danger of losing our faith and our commitment.

When we find ourselves sinking into the depths of depression, it is very easy to lose sight of what is important. This is where we see David in Psalms 22...

Ps 22:1-2

7

1 My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?
Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning.
2 O my God, I cry by day, but Thou dost not answer;
And by night, but I have no rest.

This is one of those passages that all the world seems to be familiar with. That is because while on the cross Jesus quoted this passage...

Matt 27:46

8

46 About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" that is, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"

The dynamic of this statement that our Lord made as He hung upon the cross has caused many some difficulty. What was the impetus behind the statement? Knowing His motivation will help us to understand the statement. Jesus Christ had a unique make-up. He was man, born of woman, He was Jesus. He was God, born of the Father, He was Christ. As we look at the scriptures we see this duality many times with either one aspect or the other being emphasized.

James 1:13

9

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

God cannot be tempted by evil. But we see Jesus...

Matt 4:1

10

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

It could not be the deity part of Christ that was tempted, God cannot be tempted, so it had to be the human part, Jesus, if you will, that Satan led away to be tempted. That should be obvious. Now, back to David's original statement in Psalms, so engulfed in the crisis and chaos that is the world, in the trials that had come upon him, he found himself questioning God, wanting to know why God had forsaken him. Now, there is a very important lesson to be learned here. When Christ was taken into the wilderness by Satan to be tempted, He answered every temptation presented the same way,

11

"It is written"

When we find ourselves being pressed on every side by the disappointments of this world, as David felt he was, the answers, the solutions lie in the truth of God. Even while making the statement "Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthani", David understood this truth. Note, as we continue to read in Psalms 22...

Ps 22:3-5

12

3 Yet Thou art holy,
O Thou who art enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
4 In Thee our fathers trusted;
They trusted, and Thou didst deliver them.
5 To Thee they cried out, and were delivered;
In Thee they trusted, and were not disappointed.

David understood and knew that help, comfort, salvation, all that man needs was to be found only in God and His truth, that in God there is never any disappointment. David knew that regardless of the disappointments that come with placing our trust in the world or in ourselves, there is always a path open to God. Even when we think there is nothing left for us here...

Ps 88:3

13

3 For my soul has had enough troubles,
And my life has drawn near to Sheol.

Psalms 22 and Psalms 88 point out two danger signals that can happen to all of us. When we are brought so low by the trials and temptations of this world, that depression can bring us to the false conclusion that...

14

- 1) God has indeed forsaken us, left us to the whims of Satan
- 2) There is no longer any point in trying, Satan always wins

When we give up on God, when we quit trying, whether in this life or in our spiritual life, Satan does indeed win.

Paul tells us...

1 Tim 6:11-12

15

11 But flee from these things, you man of God; and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

We can't quit and still expect to be given the reward. We can't turn away from or blame God for our disappointments, rather, we must fight and strive every step of the way with our eyes on the Eternal life to which we have been called. When we don't stay focused, when we quit fighting, when our distress overwhelms us...

Ps 31:9-10

16

9 Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;
My eye is wasted away from grief, my soul and my body also.
10 For my life is spent with sorrow,
And my years with sighing;
My strength has failed because of my iniquity,
And my body has wasted away.

When we lose control, our perception of the things going on around us changes, it becomes skewed, our physical well-being as well as our spiritual health weakens, things, all things, become tainted with the sorrow, the distress, the helplessness of not being in control, feeling lost because of sin. Life no longer seems to have a point. The disappointments seem to become overwhelming, which brings us right back to the only refuge from the disappointments of life that is available...

Rom 10:8-11

17

8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" — that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, **9** that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; **10** for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. **11** For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed."

We have the opportunity to overcome the disappointment of this life, the path has been prepared, and it is the same path that our Lord and Savior used when faced with the temptations of Satan, *"it is written."* When we turn to God through Christ, through the Word of Truth, by taking that truth into our hearts and preaching that Word to others, when we confess Christ as our Lord and live that confession in our lives, we step onto that path that leads to salvation. With our hearts we believe that Word and with our mouths we confess Christ to the world, God promises salvation to those who follow His path, He promises those who believe in Him that they will never be disappointed.

We must come to God through Christ if we would have the exultation that God offers as opposed to the disappointment of this life.

1 Peter 2:4-6

18

4 And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, **5** you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** For this is contained in Scripture:

"Behold I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone,
And he who believes in Him shall not be disappointed."

Christ was sent by God to become the cornerstone, the foundation on which the Church has been established, the first and the most high priest of a kingdom of priests to worship and sacrifice to God. God's plan is in place, God has done everything He promised, He has opened the door for man to be restored to a righteous relationship with Him through the blood of Jesus Christ. God has not disappointed and all who believe in Christ will not be disappointed.

The psalmist puts it this way...

Ps 62:6-8

19

6 He only is my rock and my salvation,
My stronghold; I shall not be shaken.
7 On God my salvation and my glory rest;
The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God.
8 Trust in Him at all times, O people;
Pour out your heart before Him;
God is a refuge for us.

Brethren we need to put our trust in God and His commandments, to make Him the rock of our refuge from the disappointments of this world and this life. In God there is no disappointment. In God we must trust.

Isa 26:4

20

4 "Trust in the Lord forever,
For in God the Lord, we have an everlasting Rock.

Ps 31:3-5

21

3 For Thou art my rock and my fortress;

For Thy name's sake Thou wilt lead me and guide me.

4 Thou wilt pull me out of the net which they have secretly laid for me;

For Thou art my strength.

5 to Thy hand I commit my spirit;

Thou hast ransomed me, O Lord, God of truth.

God will watch over, keep, and protect us, if we come to the rock.

The disappointment of this world is eternal death because of sin. John says in...

1 John 3:5-8

22

5 You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. **6** No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him. **7** Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; **8** the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

Remember that roaring lion that is seeking to devour us, Satan? He is the one who deceive us into thinking that the only way is the way of the world, the way of disappointment, the of eternal death. He wants us to believe that we can't succeed, he wants us to accept defeat. John tells us that the one who lives their lives practicing sin is of the devil. That is why Christ came, to destroy the works of Satan.

We will be judged be what we practice...

2 Cor 5:10

23

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

We don't have to give in to the disappointments of this world, rather, we can live eternally in the love of Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.