

Sermon Outline

LIVE AT THE END:

GOSPEL ENCOURAGEMENT FROM REVELATION 7:13-17

(OR “ESCHATOLOGICAL, GOSPEL TRUTHS TO EMBRACE IF YOU WANT TO STAY FAITHFUL TO KING JESUS IN AN AGE OF MONSTER SECULAR STATES, SEDUCTIVE PAGANISM, RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION, HEARTRENDING SUFFERING, UNAVOIDABLE MORTALITY, AND OTHER GREAT TRIBULATIONAL REALITIES”)

THE END OF OUR TEARS (REVELATION 7:17)

I. Introduction

II. God Will Wipe Away Every Tear

- A. We focus on the final clause of v 17: “...and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”
- B. The picture of God that we have here is one with what we had been receiving since verse 15.
 - 1. God shelters us in his tent-like presence (v 15).
 - 2. God will prevent us from experiencing hunger or thirst (v 16).
 - 3. God will protect us from scorching heat (and other destructive elements) (v 16).
 - 4. God will send his King to lead us to Springs of living Water (v 17).
- C. The picture of God in verse 17 is consistent with what we have been seeing up to this point, a God who cares for his people, a God who provides for his people.
- D. Verse 17 adds a further dimension.
 - 1. Not only will God protect us from the destructive elements of creation, nourish and feed us with his Holy Spirit.
 - 2. But God will also wipe away our tears. He will banish forever all the memories of pain in our lives.

III. Scars

- A. Our tears are caused by the *scars* we have endured in life.
 - 1. Some scars are caused by hurtful words.
 - Prov 12:18: “There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”

- Prov 15:4: “A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.”
 - Col 3:19: “Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.”
2. Some scars are caused by neglect.

IV. Regrets

- A. Then there are tears from *regrets*.
- B. Some (or many?) of our regrets are due to our sin.
1. We did something to another person and never got around to mending the fence.
 2. We ourselves were abusive.
 3. We ourselves were neglectful.
- C. Some of our regrets for failed aspirations and hopes.

V. Loss

- A. Then there are the tears of *loss*.
1. Loss of our loved ones.
 - a. Unrequited love
 - b. Death of loved ones
 2. Loss of a dream.

VI. The God Who Notices Our Tears

- A. God recognizes the reality of our tears.
1. He doesn't disregard your pain or the injustice that was done to you either.
 2. He honors the tears of repentance that come from you.
- B. I sincerely hope that Providence will never be a community that keeps its hands clean.
- The only way to be conduits of the Father's healing is to enter into the suffering of another human being.

VII. He Will Banish our Tears

- A. Because our griefs are so great, God gives to us the only One who can heal us completely—and that is God himself: “...and *God* will wipe away every tear from their eyes” (v 17).

- B. We infer from v 17 that no one on this earth in this age can completely heal our pain. No amount of therapy, justice, retribution, etc. can take our pain away completely.
- C. But God summons me to believe that there will come a day when the pain will be forever gone.
- D. Perfect healing will not come from the hands of sinful men and women, but from God and his Lamb.
- E. God will wipe our tears away.

VIII. Small (or Not-So-Small!) Beginnings

- A. The Father delights to grant us some healing now to each of us.
- B. When we begin to *detach* ourselves from our sources of our pain, anger, and sadness, and when we *re-attach* ourselves by faith to Christ, healing begins in that area of our lives.
- C. The first part of the healing comes when our own sins are forgiven. *God heals us from the curse of the Law, from the punishment our sins deserve.*
 - 1. Healing begins when we know that God is no longer angry at us, that God no longer punishes us for our sins.
 - 2. Instead, God clothes us with the righteousness of his Son.
 - 3. What we read in the earlier verse about the blood of the Lamb washing away our sins, that itself is the beginning of the healing.
 - 4. When we repent to God and trust in the Lord Jesus to pay for our sins and fulfil all our righteousness before the Father, healing begins.
- D. Then from there we become children of God. *God heals our estrangement from him.*
 - John 1:12: “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God [.]”
- E. As children of God, we are also consecrated into his holy service. We become his royal priesthood. *God heals our broken dignity and reputations.*
 - Revelation 1:5-6: “and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”
- F. Through Christ, God cancels all the ugly words people have placed upon us. He nullifies the verbal abuse, and bestows new names on us. He calls us his children and his priests. We are Abba’s beloved children! That is all the identity we need!
- G. We do not need to perform and accumulate more glories, titles, books, wealth, muscles, and knowledge in order to become a fuller human being.

1. Instead, the only work that God wants us to do is work that is compatible with being the beloved children of the Father.
 2. The work that God wants us to do is work that flows from this realization of who we are in Christ.
 3. It is the work of those who know that they are already loved by the highest Power in the universe, and will never and can ever be unloved.
 4. It is the work of those who will believe Songs 7:10.
 - Songs 7:10: “I am my beloved’s, and his desire is for me.”
- H. Healing has begun in the life of the believer. Yet, complete healing awaits. We must not underestimate or minimize the power of the suffering our brothers and sisters go through.

IX. God Is For Us

What is the truth that keeps us going?

If we want to stand firm in the Lord against all the darkness, pagan seduction, cruelty and injustice of this great tribulation, we need to recognize that the almighty God of the universe truly is for us. He promises to be the end of our suffering and our ultimate good. He will make that happen.

Questions for Reflection

1. Was there anything in particular about today’s sermon that blessed and encouraged you?
2. Was there anything that you disagree with or found difficult to accept?
3. What causes the scars in our lives?
4. What losses do we feel in our lives?