

Today is February 23, 2025

There is something fascinating in GRIEF

By Letters of John Newton to a lady

There is something fascinating in GRIEF. As painful as it is, we are prone to indulge it, and to brood over the thoughts and circumstances which are suited (like fuel to fire) to heighten and prolong it!

When the Lord afflicts — it is His design that we should grieve; but in this, as in all other things — there is a certain moderation which befits a Christian, and which only grace can teach. And grace teaches us, not by books or by hearsay — but by experimental lessons. All beyond this, should be avoided and guarded against as sinful and hurtful.

GRIEF, when indulged and excessive . . .

preys upon the spirits,

injures health,

indisposes us for duty, and

causes us to shed tears which deserve more tears.

This is a weeping world. Sin has filled it with thorns and briars, with crosses and calamities. This poor world is a great hospital, resounding with groans in every quarter. It is as a field of battle, where many are falling around us continually! It is more astonishing that we escape so well — than that we are sometimes wounded. We must have some share of grief; it is the unavoidable lot of our nature and state; it is likewise needful in point of discipline. The Lord will certainly chasten those whom He loves, though others may seem to pass for a time with impunity. That is a sweet, instructive, and important passage,

"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." Hebrews 12:6-11

It is so plain — that it needs no comment. It is so full — that a comment would but weaken it. May the Lord inscribe it upon your heart, my dear Madam, and upon mine.

**WELCOME TO THE
SOVEREIGN GRACE**

MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

*"Where the truths of God's word have been taught
For sixty-three years." Since October 21, 1961*

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Our Prayer List

"Pray without ceasing."

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Sister Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son's Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Danny Mollette, 12-year-old Lucas, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ricky Henderson and Family, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Jerry Hughes, Shirley King - Son David - and family, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Little Weslynn McClelland, Adrienne Lavina, Pastor Nathan Hille and Sister Cassie and his family, Baby Titus Massey, Shane and Brook Sims, Ricky Bennett, Nick, Madison, and Baby Emory Patty, and Russell York, Brother Medic, Sister Mhalyn Lavina and children, Brother Jerry Dodson, Brother Gary and Sister White, Brother David and Sister Jevonna O'Neal, Sister Rebecca Sidders, Mark and Kathy Johnson, Pray for a month old baby boy, Sister Rebecca Johnson.

Pray For Our Church Supported Mission Works

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Act 1:8

Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan in Thailand, and Elder Raul and the Printing work Romania

Pastor's thought for the week.

"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;" 1 Peter 5:2

"God cannot be defeated!"

Rev. 11:1 – 14

After Jesus returns in the rapture for the collecting of every Christian on the earth, there will not be one single believer left on the earth. No believers and no true churches, they will be many false churches and false Christians but none that belong to God. In the bible we must understand there is so much we do not understand. The reason we fail to understand is two-fold, (1.) God simply did not reveal it to us, or (2.) God did not choose to put it in His word. Either way God meant for us not to know. There are things in the bible that are unknown and guessed at, I believe we should not be guessing what is meant and just accept that God does not want us to know. Therefore, we must accept that these two witnesses are unknown, but they will be two men who God has chosen for this time. These two men we do know will be dressed in incredibly old clothing and have great powers given to them from God. They are two witnesses, they are here to perform the purpose of Christ in this world, to witness to whom the Holy Spirit sends them, mostly if not all Jewish people. They will also witness the Truth of God to a world that hate them. They will anger the people of this world, and the world will want them dead but cannot kill them. God gave this warning in verse five, *"And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed."* However, this satanic controlled world does not care what God says, but they will in hell. God went on to say in verse 6, *"These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will."* These two men will preach against ungodliness, against the anti-christ, and against the sinfulness of the satanic controlled world. Their God given powers will prove who they are, they are of God. However, as history has proven their witness will fall on deaf ears, as it always has. The hate of this world will show how much these two men are hated. When they are finished, *"And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them."* V. 7 Again, we do not know who this "beast" is, but we can believe he is powered by Satan. Again, we must be careful by guessing, we do not want to lead anyone wrong. After the rising of the beast, God will allow these two witnesses to be killed, just as He has with many of His saints. But please notice the hate of the world against them,

Pastor's Thought Continue.

"And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth." Verses 9 – 20. Notice their charge was *"because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth."* Just as God and God's people have always tormented the people in this world. This is why they want Israel dead, they want churches dead, they want Christians dead, they want bible truth dead, they wanted Jesus dead, and if it were possible, they would kill God, but it is not possible. The hate began in the garden after the fall, when Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit and separated themselves from God. God said to Satan in Gen. 3:15 *"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed."* The word "enmity" means hate, or hostility, meaning between Jesus, Christians against this Satanic controlled world. Today, we see this hate, from the days of Christians and churches being tormented, to the hate of Jesus, to now again rise its ugly head to hate these two men. Today, we can see the hate once again rising its ugly head, preparing to hate these two men called witnesses of God. The hate is so real and strong that they pull their dead bodies in the street and let them lie for 3 1/2 days while rejoicing and celebration even giving gifts to each other in celebration. Why, because they hate God and His witness so much, although their belief is they have defeated God, but they will soon find out, they did not, as the seventh angel sounded his trumpet and *"there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."* God will never be defeated, neither will His word, His Son, His churches, nor His people. *"...he shall reign for ever and ever."* Amen!

Church information and Happenings

- Please be in much prayer for our dear brother in Christ Jerry Dodson as his time is limited.
- Please remember to be in much prayer for Brother Ronnie Henderson and Sister Sarah.
- Please remember Sister Rebecca as she is rehabbing.
- Please remember Brother David O'Neal he had hip replacement.
- Please pray for Missionary Dan Sullivan's eye surgery