

## Psalm 5 - The Christian's Groaning

June 30, 2019

**Psalm 5:1-12** ESV *To the choirmaster: for the flutes. A Psalm of David.*

1 **Give ear to my words, O LORD; consider my groaning.**

2 **Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you do I pray.**

*Matthew 5:4* ESV

4 Blessed are those who mourn (penteō - wail, lament, grieve), for they shall be comforted.

- Like all the beatitudes, this mourning is not circumstantial based upon a specific event; but rather, it is an abiding condition of the soul.
- This inner groaning is the mourning over sin; our own and the world's sin around us.

*Ecclesiastes 7:1-4* ESV

1 A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth.

2 It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart.

3 Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness of face the heart is made glad.

4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

- Sorrow teaches the destruction of sin and the vanity of this temporal existence, causing us to search deeper for the true meaning and purpose of life.
- Laughter and mirth (partying) only give false hopes and temporary relief to a spiritually dead and empty soul.

"I believe that entertainment and amusements are the work of the Enemy to keep dying men from knowing they're dying; and to keep enemies of God from remembering that they're enemies." — [A.W. Tozer](#)

[Tozer](#)

*James 4:8-9* ESV

8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

## Mourning Over Personal Sin

*Psalm 38:4-8* ESV *A Psalm of David*

4 For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me.

5 My wounds stink and fester because of my foolishness,

6 I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning.

7 For my sides are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh.

8 I am feeble and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart.

"I groan daily under a body of sin and corruption. Oh for the time when I shall drop this flesh, and be free from sin!" —Charles Spurgeon

Romans 7:22-25 ESV

22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,

23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

*"I don't say for a moment that holiness shuts out the presence of indwelling sin. No, far from it. It is the greatest mystery of a holy person that they carry around with them a 'body of death.' That often, when they want to do good 'evil is right there with them.' That the 'old self' is clogging all their movements, and, as it were, trying to draw them back at every step they take (Romans 7:21). But it is the quality of a holy person that they are not at peace with indwelling sin, as others are. They hate it, mourn over it, and long to be free from its company. The work of sanctification within them is like the wall of Jerusalem - the building goes forward 'even in times of trouble' (Daniel 9:25).*

*The holiest men and women have had many blemishes and defects when compared with the holy standard of the Word of God. Their life is a continual warfare with sin, the world, and the devil; and sometimes you will see them not overcoming, but overcome. The flesh is always fighting against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh, and 'we all stumble in many ways.'"*

*But still, for all this, I am sure that to have the type of character that I have weakly drawn is the heart's desire and prayer of all true Christians. They press on towards it, even though they do not reach it. They may not attain it, but they always aim at it. It is what they strive and labor to be, if it is not what they are. (Galatians 5:17; James 3:2).*

—J.C. Ryle, "Holiness!" ("John Charles Ryle (10 May 1816 – 10 June 1900) was an English evangelical Anglican bishop. He was the first Anglican bishop of Liverpool." —Wikipedia)

## **Mourning Over Evil and the Coming Judgment**

Proverbs 29:2 ESV

2 When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan.

2 Peter 2:5-9 ESV

5 if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

6 if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;

7 and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked

8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard);

9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment.

Ezekiel 9:1-10 ESV

1 Then he cried in my ears with a loud voice, saying, "Bring near the executioners of the city, each with his destroying weapon in his hand."

2 And behold, six men came from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with his weapon for slaughter in his hand, and with them was a man clothed in linen, with a writing case at his waist. And they went in and stood beside the bronze altar.

3 Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub on which it rested to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed in linen, who had the writing case at his waist.

4 And the LORD said to him, "Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it."

5 And to the others he said in my hearing, "Pass through the city after him, and strike. Your eye shall not spare, and you shall show no pity.

6 Kill old men outright, young men and maidens, little children and women, but touch no one on whom is the mark. And begin at my sanctuary." So they began with the elders who were before the house.

7 Then he said to them, "Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain. Go out." So they went out and struck in the city.

8 And while they were striking, and I was left alone, I fell upon my face, and cried, "Ah, Lord GOD! Will you destroy all the remnant of Israel in the outpouring of your wrath on Jerusalem?"

9 Then he said to me, "The guilt of the house of Israel and Judah is exceedingly great. The land is full of blood, and the city full of injustice. For they say, 'The LORD has forsaken the land, and the LORD does not see.'

10 As for me, my eye will not spare, nor will I have pity; I will bring their deeds upon their heads."

Ezekiel 21:5-7 ESV

5 And all flesh shall know that I am the LORD. I have drawn my sword from its sheath; it shall not be sheathed again.

6 "As for you, son of man, groan; with breaking heart and bitter grief, groan before their eyes.

7 And when they say to you, 'Why do you groan?' you shall say, 'Because of the news that it is coming. Every heart will melt, and all hands will be feeble; every spirit will faint, and all knees will be weak as water.

Behold, it is coming, and it will be fulfilled,'" declares the Lord GOD.

Romans 8:18-26 ESV

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope

21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Hebrews 2:17-18 ESV

17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Hebrews 4:14-16 ESV

14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Revelation 21:1-4 ESV

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

2 Corinthians 5:1-2 ESV

1 For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling...