

## Bittersweet

### I. Introduction:

A. The word “bittersweet” means: “sweet with a bitter aftertaste; arousing pleasure tinged with sadness or pain” (New Oxford American Dictionary).

B. Do you remember when you obeyed the Gospel and were overjoyed concerning your salvation (i.e. **Acts 8:25-39**)?

1. Salvation is a cause for rejoicing (**Psalms 13:5**, **Psalms 40:16**, and **Philippians 3:3**).

2. Even the salvation of others brings reason for joy (**Luke 15:1-10**).

C. The disposition [nature] of Christians is to be happy, joyful (**Psalms 144:15** and **Philippians 4:4**).

1. However, aren't there times wherein knowledge of the truth brings about sorrowful realizations (**Romans 9:1-3**)?

2. With knowledge of the truth, it changes how you look at most people (**Psalms 119:158**; cf. **Matthew 7:13-14**).

### II. Body: The Apostle John, Through Divine Revelation, Had A Reaction That Sets Forth The Reality Of Our Study (**Revelation 10:8-10**)?

A. The word of God is sweet upon the obedient ear (**Psalms 19:9-10**, **Psalms 119:111-112**, **Proverbs 24:13-14**, and **Acts 2:41**).

1. But, as happened to Ezekiel, it doesn't stay that way (**Ezekiel 2:8-3:14**).

2. That sweet truth causes you to change the way you see things (**Psalms 119:103-104**).

3. The more you learn... **Ecclesiastes 1:18**

B. Knowing the truth means we know who is lost (**Romans 10:1-3**; cf. **II Thessalonians 1:7-9**, **Hebrews 12:24-31**, and **I Peter 4:17-18**).

1. You realize where physically dead lost people are (**Luke 16:22-23**).

2. You realize where living loved ones, others, are headed when they refuse the truth (**Matthew 25:41** and **John 5:28-29**).

3. These realizations bring hard, emotional moments upon us (**Psalms 119:136**, **Lamentations 3:48-49**, **Luke 19:41-42**, and **Philippians 3:18-19**).

C. Knowing the truth gives wisdom the world doesn't have (**I Corinthians 3:18-20**).

1. We don't get fooled by “smoke and mirrors” or people putting on an act (**John 7:24**).

2. We know who really is good and is not (**I John 3:4-10**).

3. This becomes bittersweet because while we aren't so easily fooled (**Proverbs 14:15**), we also see how bad things really are (**I John 5:19**).

D. We have to be cautious in not focusing on the bitter side of things lest we be swallowed up in sorrow (**II Corinthians 2:7**).

1. Sorrow will break our spirit (**Proverbs 15:13**).

2. For balance, think of what Jesus taught the disciples when He was ready to die (**John 16:17-22**; cf. **Matthew 28:5-8** and **Luke 24:41**), understanding it is not a direct application for us (**Romans 2:7**).

3. Be capable of redirecting your mind (**Ephesians 4:23** and **Philippians 4:8**) and using the bitterness as motivation (**II Corinthians 5:11**).

III. Conclusion: When the bitterness starts to set in, refocus on what causes joy unspeakable (**I Peter 1:3-9**).