

Not Worthy To Be Compared

I. Introduction:

A. Jesus told His disciples that in the world they would face tribulation [- afflicted, (-tion), anguish, burdened, persecution, tribulation, trouble] (**John 16:33**).

1. Paul and Barnabas preached that to Christians (**Acts 14:22**).

2. Paul and Timothy experienced it (**II Corinthians 1:8**) [same Greek word is translated “trouble”; Strong’s # 2347].

3. John wrote of it to the seven churches in Asia (**Revelation 1:9; 2:9**).

B. Adversity [translated “temptation”] is common to man (**I Corinthians 10:13**).

1. Job said: “*Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble*” (**Job 14:1**).

2. Solomon wrote of man’s days being sorrowful (**Ecclesiastes 2:22-23**).

3. However, in the very next verse, he said man could enjoy the good of his labor (**Ecclesiastes 2:24**) and that certainly is true (**I Timothy 6:17** and **I Peter 3:10**).

4. How can a Christian experience the woes of life, anguish of living, and still have joy in this world?

II. Body: You Have To Refocus Your Attention From The Sorrows That Are, To The Joy To Come (**Romans 8:18**).

A. Notice what Peter wrote to Christians suffering persecution (**I Peter 1:6-9; 4:12-13**).

1. Sometimes we have to remember that the things we face in this world are temporary (**II Corinthians 4:17-18**).

2. Jesus suffered with mental anguish (**Mark 14:32-42** and **Hebrews 5:1-10**).

3. Jesus overcame His trials by looking forward (**Hebrews 12:1-3**).

B. Getting trapped in the present distresses we face has a quicksand effect leading down to a road of mental depression (i.e. **Psalms 102:1-11**).

1. It’s vain for you to worry about things you cannot change (**Psalms 127:2**).

2. Your physical health will suffer as a result (**Proverbs 12:25** and **Proverbs 17:22**).

3. Redirect your thinking (**Philippians 4:6-9**).

C. The redirection of our groaning comes down to looking to the hope before us (**Romans 8:23-25**).

1. Don’t be troubled. Jesus is coming for the faithful to go home (**John 14:1-3**).

2. Think about Abraham’s perspective with far less knowledge than we have now (**Hebrews 11:8-16**).

3. All the aches and pains of this life, in this mortal body within which we live, that'll change (**I Corinthians 15:54-55** and **Philippians 3:20-21**).

4. So, fight and hold on to what is promised (**I Timothy 6:12**).

D. While faithful Christians can use this lesson to look forward, if you're not a FAITHFUL Christian, the worst of this world is far better than what is to come (**Matthew 5:29-30**).

1. The terms "everlasting" and "eternal" do not apply to anything in this physical world. It does to what it is to come (**Matthew 25:41; 25:46**).

2. Knowing the terror of the Lord, be persuaded (**II Corinthians 5:10-11**).

III. Conclusion: For the faithful, just keep looking forward and know the best is yet to come (**Titus 3:7, I John 5:11, and Jude 1:21**).