

only Saviour and Lord. For all who come to Jesus in repentance and faith and follow Him in devotion and love, this is the glorious prospect, "No more tears" at all in the world to come, in all the ages of endless eternity!

Here the contrasting truth needs to be stated too. There is no comfort for unbelievers. After this life, the Bible says all unconverted and unbelieving, whether churchgoers or not, will perish in everlasting punishment. Revelation 21:8 makes this clear in the very setting of speaking of the gospel comfort of "no more tears. *"But the fearful [meaning here the cowardly], and unbelieving, and the abominable, murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."*" This verse surely brings out while there is great comfort for God's people looking to Jesus of no more tears one day, how comfortless and justly horrific really is the future of all who will not trust and obey the gospel of Jesus Christ. Does that include you perhaps? The Bible speaks of people in hell howling and wailing and weeping and gnashing their teeth in grief and agony, and that is not only for a little while but forever! In heaven there will be no more tears but in hell there will be only tears and that forever.

Will you, dear friend, take the gospel most seriously, thinking of it even from the perspective of this theme, "No more tears!"? No more tears! God promises this for His people in the world to come, all in and through His Son Jesus Christ, the Saviour of sinners. Is your trust in Him, Whose first coming with His birth we are especially remembering in this season, but Who is soon also coming again? Are you ready to meet Him, and do you live that others might be ready too, pointing them to Jesus, through Whom alone we come into that heavenly land of no more tears and escape that other place of only endless tears? "No more tears!" What a gospel! Do you know it and are you promoting it in line with God's holy Word? Amen.



NO MORE TEARS!

The theme of this gospel message is "No more tears!" Can you imagine a world with no more crying and no more tears? The Bible tells us in several places that in the world to come, for those who go to heaven, among other things this is what will be the case as recorded in Revelation 7:17 and 21:4 "*And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.*" There will not be a single tear of sorrow or pain ever in heaven for all who come there. No more tears! Let us think about this further considering the reality of tears here and now and then the remedy from tears here and hereafter.

You will surely agree it is realistic to say that the measure of tears in this world is measureless! What numberless tears are shed each day in our world. Every second there is someone crying about something somewhere. Indeed, do we not have to say, every day in this world in many places many people are shedding many tears about different matters? The whole matter of tears reflects a world of pain and suffering, grief and hurt, injustice and abuse, sickness, death, and disappointments. Tragedies, accidents, doctor's reports, family strife and any strife between peoples and nations, wars, persecution, stresses, poverty, tensions, failures, spiritual struggles and a godly life and a prayer life can bring on many tears. Sad stories and tough situations, and just being plainly open with each other about struggles you are going through can lead to becoming 'teary-eyed'. When you look up the word "tear" or related words like "weeping, sobbing, lamenting, wailing, grieving, sorrow, distress, crying" you find out how in the Bible there is story after story where lots of crying is part of the picture, and how many tears being shed in this life is the reality. Don't the daily news reports tell us the same every day again, never mind also so much that never gets in the papers?

God promises "No more tears!" in our text in the world to come, but in this world what a flood of tears there are....and without question all of us have added at least one or two tears and many more tears to all the tears shed here on earth now.

We know for sure from the Bible that God didn't make this world to be a vale of tears. It is, as the Bible tells us, on account of sin that this world is full of tears here and now. Before the fall into sin there were no tears shed, for there was no sorrow or suffering, tension or trouble to cry about. Everything was bliss! All was perfectly right with God, and with people, and all

Hans Overduin, Radio Pastor

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BANNER OF TRUTH RADIO BROADCAST

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Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee that it may be displayed because of the truth. (Psalm 60:4)*

of creation. But with the Fall we came under God's judgment, and the world came under the curse of sin, and mankind is conceived and born in sin and, as a result, bent on evil by nature. This has brought on, and still brings on, countless tears in our world to this day. People living sinful, selfish, evil, ungodly lives, and all creation groaning under the curse of sin....what weeping this has brought and does bring throughout history even to our present day. How true it is what someone said once, "If you have ears to hear, ours is a world of weeping. Ours is a world where every day, if you are willing to listen, you can hear the cries of distress. And once you start to really listen, those cries become deafening and those tears begin to drown out all hope that things could ever really be different."

We know, praise be to God, that through the gospel of Jesus Christ there is hope in this hurting sinful world...but the point now is, let us be conscious of the many tears shed in our world today. Shouldn't this mark all confessing Christians especially, living with a consciousness about all the sadness and hurt and sorrow and tears in this life, living yet in this sinful and hurting world? Doesn't every true Christian know about and keep experiencing tears of contrition, tears of care, tears of intercession, tears of suffering, and tears of joy? Are you someone for whom our text and the theme, "No more tears!" speaks volumes for you are very conscious of living in a world of tears here and now, in regards to yourself and in regards to many others? "No more tears!" That is not the way it is in this life, but it is the promise of God for the next life for all those living now who are trusting and living by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Here we come also to our second point about the remedy from tears for now and forever. Speaking of the remedy we come, of course, right to the heart of the gospel message. The good news of the gospel is that God, even the day of man's fall into sin, promised the remedy from sin and all its tragic consequences. God promised a Saviour from sin, One no less than His only beloved Son. Jesus Christ came into this sinful, hurting, struggling, rebellious world to accomplish salvation for sinners like us. He came to save His people from their sins, yes, from the guilt of sin, and the powers of sin, and from the punishment of sin. He came to give instead, for all who trust in Him, the forgiveness of sin, everlasting righteousness, and the gift of eternal life. There is remedy from all tears through Jesus Christ, the Saviour of sinners!

It is tremendous what Jesus, sent from the Father, came to do, in and with the salvation of sinners like us. Thinking too of the cost of His saving work, it is moving beyond words. We read more than once about Jesus Himself weeping...weeping at Lazarus' tomb, weeping for those who were lost in sin and not turning from their sins, and then especially think of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane being in such agony of soul and body before the judgement of God's wrath against Him as Sin-bearer, that He sweat great drops of blood, the gospel tell us. We cannot tell how many tears Jesus shed

in His life living as the perfectly sinless One in this sinful world. How many tears Jesus shed when suffering and paying the punishment for sin in the sinner's place! Hebrews 5:7 speaks about Jesus in His lifetime ministry and death, "*Who, in the days of His flesh [in His life here on earth] ...had offered up prayers and supplications, with strong [vehement] crying and tears unto Him that was able to save Him from death...*" We can't comprehend the depths of Jesus' sufferings and agonies and tears as Sinbearer. It is something God's people never can hear enough about and always marvel about. For now this is the good news, through Jesus' once for all sacrifice and payment for sin, even to the death of the cross, now the gospel message is, there is a world to come of no more tears!

How this detail, the prospect of a world of no more tears in the future while living now still in this world of countless tears, should have us gain another glimpse of the greatness and power of Jesus' Person and His finished work on sinner's behalf. So great and precious is the event of Jesus and His shed blood that now beyond this world of tears, there is the certain hope of a future world with no more tears. Don't you find this very encouraging and comforting as well? Through Jesus' Person and work as Saviour of sinners, of this you may be sure one day for all who are saved by Jesus, for as many as trust and follow Him, He shall wipe away every tear. There will be tears no more, nevermore forevermore in heaven! This means anything and everything that may give reason for us to weep, lament and sob, wail and grieve, and cry in hurt and pain in any way now still will no longer be present ever, in any way hereafter!

What a prospect! But the gospel message is not only about no tears ever again in the world to come. No, it also tells about God being such a caring and sympathizing Saviour God and Friend for us in all our needs and sorrows and distresses here and now. How the Lord stands ready to help, to forgive, to strengthen, to renew and encourage in hope all who cry to Him in their needs whether for body or soul. God's people may be so comforted in spite of this world of tears because through Jesus and His saving work by His life, death, and resurrection, not only do we have the promise of one day a new world without tears, no more tears ever, but also in this world God promises to be there with us and for us in the midst of all our tears, whatever the reason for those tears. As Hebrews 4:15&16 states, with Jesus the Saviour "*We have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted [tested] like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*" And lest anyone here should think, 'But how do I know this Jesus Christ the Saviour will also be my Saviour?', then you only need be pointed to Jesus' tears for the lost and over the rebellious, and be assured that no sinner calling on Him will be cast off by Him. God is not willing that any perish in sin, but that all hear of Him and come to Him as