

## Saddest Words in the Bible

Ecclesiastes 7:3

### I. Introduction:

1. **2** Nobody likes to hear sad words, but the Bible contains a long list of sad words. But that's ok because Solomon said sadness can make us better people: **Eccl. 7:3**: "*Sorrow is better than laughter, For by a sad countenance the heart is made better.*"
2. There are many important lessons we need to learn from the sad words in the Bible.
3. **3** Let's carefully consider the ramifications from some of the sad words from the Bible.

### II. Discussion:

#### I. **4** "Some Mocked": Acts 17:32

A. Comment on Acts 17:16-34; read vss. **30-32a**.

B. It is truly sad when people make light of the resurrection of Christ.

C. **\*\*** Because the resurrection of Christ is the most important event in history!

(1) It declared Jesus was God's Son (**Rom. 1:4**: "...declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."; Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23; **1 Cor. 15:13-19**).

(2) Through the resurrection we are promised judgment and called to repentance (**Acts 17:30-31**: "*Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.*").

(3) It is through the resurrection that we are "justified" (**Rom. 4:23-25**; **Rom. 6:5-7**).

(4) Baptism saves by the resurrection:

**1 Pet. 3:21**: *The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:*

**Col. 2:12**: *buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.*

(5) Through the resurrection we are "begotten...to a living hope" (**1 Pet. 1:3**: *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*).

#### 2. **5** "We Will Not Walk Therein": **Jer. 6:16**

A. Discuss the situation in Jer. 6 and read and discuss verse **16→10**.

B. Unfortunately many today have the same attitude as these people (Jer. 6:10).

C. The validity of our claim to be God's people requires us to walk in the "light" of His word (**Psa. 119:105**: *Your word is a lamp to my feet, And a light to my path.*): **6**

(1) "walk[ing] newness of life" (Rom. 6:4).

(2) "in the light" (**1 Jn. 1:7**: "*But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*").

(3) "For we walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Cor. 5:7; Col. 3:17; 1 Pet. 4:11; Gal. 1:6-9).

(4) "walk worthy of your vocation" (Eph. 4:1; Phil. 1:27; **3:17-21**).

- (5) “walk in love” (**Eph. 5:1-2**: *Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.*).
- (6) “walk honestly” (**1 Thess. 4:11-12**).
- (7) Walk “in sanctification and honor” (**1 Thess. 4:3-5**).

D. How sad when anyone says, “We will not walk therein.”

### 3. **7** “Who Concerning the Truth Have Erred”:

**2 Tim. 2:17-18**: *“And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; 18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.*

A. Read and discuss 2 Tim. 2:17-18.

B. Unfortunately many who obey the truth err, or fall away from it!

C. \*\* How do brethren err from the truth?

- (1) Succumb to the allure of riches (**1 Tim. 6:10**: *“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”*; **Lk. 8:14: the thorny soil** *“Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.”*; Lk. 12:16-21: parable of the rich fool; *“take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry....So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”*).
- (2) Succumb to the allure of fleshly desires (**1 Cor. 10:6-11**; 9:24-27).
- (3) Succumb to false doctrine (Gal. 1:6-9; 1 Jn. 4:1, 6). Institutional issues, social gospel, continuous cleansing, no eternal punishment, MDR, AD 70, overzealous concerning women speaking, qualifications of elders, leaving the church for a denomination
- (4) Succumb to their own “wisdom” (**Rom. 12:3**: *“For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”*; AD 70).
- (5) Succumb to spiritual laziness (**Heb. 5:12**: *“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.”*).

D. Regardless of the cause, those erring from the truth are lost (Gal. 5:4; Jas. 5:19-20).

### 4. **8** “Concerning the Faith Have Made Shipwreck”:

**1 Tim. 1:19-20**: *“Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: 20 Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.”*

A. A shipwreck (e.g., on 4/15/1912; 1,517 souls lost on the Titanic!) is a disaster, but making

“shipwreck” of one’s faith is even a greater disaster (Matt. 16:26). **Turn a blessing into a curse!**

B. How do so many make “shipwreck” of their faith?

- (1) Faith made “shipwreck” by false teaching (2 Tim. 2:17-18 **above**; becoming more common in today’s “PC” world!).
- (2) By “depart[ing] from the faith” (**1 Tim. 4:1-3**; **2 Tim. 4:3-4**; **Jer. 6:10**: *To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the Lord is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it. 16: Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, “We will not walk therein.”*).

- (3) By denying the faith (1 Tim. 5:8); failing to discharge our responsibilities.
  - (4) By casting off one's faith (1 Tim. 5:11-12: *"having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith."*; Rev. 2:4-5: warning to church at Ephesus; sensual desires stronger than desire to serve Christ.
5. **9** "And the Door Was Shut": Matt. 25:10: *And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.*
- A. Think of how sad it must have been when the door on the ark was shut! **Gen. 7:16**: *"...and the LORD shut him in."* A world of skeptics and critics turned into believers seven days later! Gen. 7:10
  - B. **\*\*** Read and discuss **Matt. 25:1-13**.
    - (1) Those who were ready went in.
    - (2) The other virgins made a start, but failed to enter because they did not remain ready.
  - C. Unfortunately the majority will find the door shut (**Lk. 13:23-30**). If the door shut this very hour, which side of the threshold would you be on?
6. **10** "Depart From Me": Matt. 25:41; 7:21-23
- A. Many will hear those chilling, terrifying words! **\*\***
  - B. Who?
    - (1) Those failing to use their talents (**Matt. 25:30**: *"And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*).
    - (2) Those who are not benevolent (**Matt. 25:41**: *"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels'"*).
    - (3) Those not entering through the "narrow gate" (Lk. 13:23-30).
    - (4) Those who are "bloodthirsty" (Psa. 139:19; Prov. 6:17: *"Hands that shed innocent blood."*; **2 Kgs. 24:3-4**).
    - (5) Those who are "workers of iniquity" (Psa. 6:8; Matt. 7:21-23: *"I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"*).
  - C. Discuss **2 Thess. 1:7-9**; could one hear any sadder words than these?
7. **11** "Go Thy Way For This Time": Acts 24:25
- A. Those are the words of Felix after hearing a gospel sermon (**Acts 24:22, 24-25**).
  - B. Sadly, many people are like Felix.
    - (1) So close to the truth, but so far way!
    - (2) He heard the truth; Paul reasoned with him about righteousness, temperance, and judgment.
    - (3) As far as we know Felix never had another opportunity to obey (vs. 27: *But after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix' room: and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound.*).
  - C. We never know when our last opportunity for obedience will come! Jas. 4:14; **Jer. 15:6**: *"I am weary with repenting"*; **Rom. 1:28**: *"...they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind"*; 2 Cor. 6:2
8. **12** "Almost thou persuadest me": Acts 26:28
- A. Consider Agrippa's (Agrippa II, last of the Herodian rulers of Palestine) words to Paul, *"Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."* (Acts 26:28)
  - B. Circumstances leading to Agrippa's words (Acts 26:1-29).

C. Words are the basis for the song we sing entitled, *Almost Persuaded* (Philip P. Bliss, 1871):

“Almost persuaded” now to believe;  
“Almost persuaded” Christ to receive;  
Seems now some soul to say,  
“Go, Spirit, go Thy way,  
Some more convenient day  
On Thee I’ll call.”

“Almost persuaded,” come, come today;  
“Almost persuaded,” turn not away;  
Jesus invites you here,  
Angels are ling’ring near,  
Prayers rise from hearts so dear;  
O wand’rer, come!

“Almost persuaded,” harvest is past!  
“Almost persuaded,” doom comes at last!  
“Almost” cannot avail;  
“Almost” is but to fail!  
Sad, sad, that bitter wail—  
“Almost,” but lost!

D. Agrippa believed (**Acts 26:27**: “King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.”), yet he failed to obey! Many “believers” will be lost (**Jn. 12:42**: “Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue.”).

E. Almost is but to fail!

(1) Can you imagine on the judgment day saying, “I was almost a Christian,” or “I was almost faithful as a Christian”?

(2) Like Felix, we never read of Agrippa having another chance to obey (2 Thess. 1:7-9).

F. “Almost” happens to many people every day (e.g., gospel meeting flyers).

III. **13 Conclusion:**

1. Don’t ever allow any of these sad words to be legitimately applicable to you!
2. If any of these sad words are applicable to you; you can change that today by obeying the Lord N-O-W!  
**2 Cor. 6:2**: *Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*
3. Remember, “‘Almost’ cannot avail; ‘Almost’ is but to fail; Sad, sad that bitter wail—‘Almost,’ but lost!”

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