



Mike King-Minister

BIBLE TALK

Question: Does God take delight when we hurt in that He required that we mourn?

Answer: Not at all! Reference is being made to Matt. 5:4 where Jesus taught that those who mourn would be comforted. To mourn is to "feel or express grief or sorrow, especially for the dead; grieve" (Reader's Digest Ency. Dict.). What then did the Lord mean and what qualifies as godly mourning?

Mourning in this context is not grieving for the dead, though doing so is not wrong (Jn. 11:35). Animals have the capacity for grieving over the carcass of a fallen companion. It is not to be confused with sorrow, despair or disappointment of this world. It is easily confused with "moaning." Moaning is saying, "Look what God has done to me." A mourner says, "Look what I have done to God." Solomon was a moaner when saying, "...all is vanity and a striving after the wind" (Ecc. 1:2, 14). David demonstrated a contrasting spirit, that of true mourning when he prayed, "*my sin is always before me.⁴ Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight*" (Ps. 51:2-4). Moaning is self-centered while mourning is God-centered. Grieving over sins constitutes real mourning!

Through properly directed grief and personal introspection, the sinner can realize his hurt to God which is powerful motivation for genuine repentance (2 Cor. 7:10). God does not want us to continue grieving over the same sin, but to seek forgiveness. We can enjoy "*seasons of refreshing*" that come from knowing that our sins have been blotted out (Acts 3:19). We are to "throw off the weights that so easily beset us" which could be needless guilt (Heb. 12:1).

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