

## **1-19-20 message WHO ARE WE TO COMPLAIN?**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Lamentations 3:27 It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.

Lamentations 3:28 He sitteth alone and keepeth silence, because he hath borne it upon him.

Lamentations 3:29 He putteth his mouth in the dust; if so be there may be hope.

Lamentations 3:30 He giveth his cheek to him that smiteth him: he is filled full with reproach.

Lamentations 3:31 For the Lord will not cast off for ever:

Lamentations 3:32 But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies.

Lamentations 3:33 For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.

Lamentations 3:34 To crush under his feet all the prisoners of the earth,

Lamentations 3:35 To turn aside the right of a man before the face of the most High,

Lamentations 3:36 To subvert a man in his cause, the Lord approveth not.

Lamentations 3:37 Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not?

Lamentations 3:38 Out of the mouth of the most High proceedeth not evil and good?

Lamentations 3:39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

Intro:

We had a few nice days last week. In fact, last Saturday and Sunday we had record high temperatures reaching into the mid and high 60's. From what I understand the temperatures beat the 150 year record highs for this time of the year. Yesterday and today, all of sudden, we find ourselves back to January weather and the prediction was we were going to get a record storm. As I was trying to get prepared for the storm, I worked for a short time outside getting things ready to plow. I had to get the salt spreader on the truck. That wind was blowing, my hands were freezing, and I found myself complaining to God. Then I thought of Lam. 3:39, and said to myself and the Lord, who am I to complain. Isn't it interesting, last week we had record high temperatures and I wonder how many of us thanked God for the nice weather, but now we have freezing cold weather and we are quick to complain? The truth is that we are inclined to complain more than we give thanks. It just comes natural to complain.

Have you ever stopped to think about all the times we complain to God? We are always griping.

The nation Israel was in ruin taken into captivity and the city was in shambles. Most of the people were taken to Babylon or dead.

In the midst of this scenario Jeremiah writes:

Lamentations 3:22 It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

Lamentations 3:23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

It is in our sin nature to complain. We are constantly complaining.

THIS MORNING I WANT TO EXAMINE THIS WHOLE MATTER OF OUR COMPLAINTS.

Now consider all the pain and suffering in this life is a by product of sin in some way or another.

The Bible says,

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Everything we complain about is a direct result of sin. But the ultimate consequence of our sin is death. But Jeremiah, says, why are you complaining? You are alive and you're still complaining? If you are alive and deserve death then it is of God's mercy that you are alive. You have something to be thankful for.

The bitter cold is because man's sin had affected the environment and weather.

We get sick. It is all because of sin that has taken a toll on our health.

The pain that we experience, it is ultimately all because of sin.

Our text says,

Lamentations 3:39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

Note what Jeremiah says, why is a living man complaining for the punishment of sin? The wages of sin is DEATH and here is a living man complaining, and yet he is alive!

So yesterday, the wind was blowing, the ground was frozen and I had to move things around because we were supposed to get this bad snow storm, and I had to make room to plow.

So you know when it is cold out everything seems to be a chore.

So I needed to hook up the salt spreader, and there are these wires and terminals that need to be hooked up. And I found myself complaining. But then I had to quote this verse. Wherefore doth a living man complain.

Then I had to fill the hopper with salt again, groanings and complaints. I had to quote the verse again.

Then I had to move the trailers around to get ready to plow again, groanings.

Then I had to take the trailer down to the church and put it somewhere out of the way so I could plow.

Then it was so cold that the blocks that the jack footplate rested on was frozen to the ground. So when I tried to kick it free all I could feel was the pain of frost bitten toes hitting against solid concrete block. AGAIN. Complain. Again I had to quote Lam 3:39 Who am I to complain!

Then after I finally found a stick and pounded one concrete block free I was able to use it to knock the others free. I didn't have gloves so I had to move these solid concrete blocks out the way so I could plow. Now my fingers were numb and again more pain and groanings. Again I quoted Lam 3:39 and asked God to forgive me for complaining.

Then I got took the trailer down and parked it out of the way so I could plow. Again, again I had to deal with more blocks frozen to the ground. More groanings because of the cold.

Then I noticed the wind blew the basketball hoop down where I was going to need to plow, so I had to move that out of the way and a few other things that were in my way that had frozen to the ground. Again groans, quote Lam. 3:39.

Then I had to move the other trailer to the one I just parked. So now I had to change receivers, because this hitch was a 2" ball rather than a 2 5/8", so more frost bit fingering. Finally when I backed up to the trailer the jack handle was frozen and when I tried to spray it with WD40 the can was empty. GROAN GROAN. Again I needed to quote Lam 3:39

After a while I thought to myself that God must get tired of hearing my groanings.

Think about this, according to Lam. 3:39, most of the time we find ourselves complaining, we are complaining about something that is a direct result or indirect result and consequence of mankind's sin. It is the thorns and thistles of this life.

After thinking about Lam. 3:39 as I thought about what to preach on, the only thing that came to mind was Lam. 3:39.

So this morning, I can't help but think that this cold has caused a bit of groaning and complaining in your life as well as mine,

## **I. WHO ARE WE TO COMPLAIN: THINK: WHY ARE WE COMPLAINING?**

- II. WHO ARE WE TO COMPLAIN: THINK: WHO IT IS THAT IS COMPLAINING?
- III. WHO ARE WE TO COMPLAIN: THINK: WHAT IS OUR POSITION TO COMPLAIN?
- IV. WHAT IS THE SOLUTION TO OUR COMPLAINTS:

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**I. WHO ARE WE TO COMPLAIN: THINK: WHY ARE WE COMPLAINING?  
WHAT IS IT WE COMPLAIN ABOUT?**

We complain because we think we don't get what we deserve.  
We are getting a bum rap.

OT. No greater record of man's nature to complain than what we read about concerning Israel in the wilderness.

A record of 40 years of murmuring and complaining.

Children of Israel wanted to be free from Pharaoh. They left Egypt and after they were in the wilderness for a while they start to complain. First, they didn't have food, then God gave them manna.

So God gave them manna they complained about the manna.  
Then God gave them meat and the meat made them sick to their stomachs.  
They complained they didn't have leeks and garlic like in Egypt.

Numbers 11:5 We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick:  
Numbers 11:6 But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.

WHY DO WE COMPLAIN? IT IS BECAUSE WE THINK WE ARE NOT GETTING WHAT WE DESERVE!

BUT JUST WHO ARE WE TO COMPLAIN: What we deserve is death!

Lamentations 3:39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

**2. We complain about our circumstances in life.  
We complain about our jobs.**

I wonder if God has a complaint department in heaven.

There are as many reasons people complain as there are people.  
It is a characteristic of sinful mankind to complain.

JUST WHY DO WE COMPLAIN? WE THINK WE GOT A BUM RAP. We can go on and on. There are as many varieties of complaints as there are fingerprints and people.

### **3. MOST PEOPLE COMPLAIN BECAUSE OF SUFFERING IN THIS LIFE.**

Things were not going well for the nation so we complain.  
We complain about the gas prices.  
We complain about the economy.  
We complain about, fill in the blank.

One thing is sure in this life we will suffer so we are bound to have our fill of complaints.

Because of sin we suffer. So the complaining will continue until all sin is removed from the planet.

I read in revelation:

***Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.***

In that day God will wipe away all pain and suffering, and heartache because there will be no more sin.

In that Day God will make an end of sins. There will be no more sin, that is why He can say there will be no more suffering.

***Daniel 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.***

The problem is that most people do not believe they are getting what they deserve because they do not believe that "The wages of sin is death.." and they do not believe they are sinners. But Jeremiah says,

Lamentations 3:39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

SO WHO ARE WE TO COMPLAIN?

### **II. WHO ARE WE TO COMPLAIN: THINK: WHO IT IS THAT IS COMPLAINING?**

WE ARE COMPLAINING ABOUT THE SUFFERING.  
THE REPERCUSSIONS OF OUR SIN AND SIN OF OTHERS.

WE ARE A SINNER WHO DESERVES DEATH.  
THAT INCLUDES PHYSICAL DEATH.  
THAT INCLUDES SPIRITUAL DEATH.  
IS THERE ANY PLEASANT WAY TO DIE?  
CAN YOU DIE WITHOUT SOME SUFFERING?

DO THE DEAD COMPLAIN? ONLY THE LIVING COMPLAIN.

Lamentations 3:39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

SOLOMON SAID HE VISITED THE GRAVEYARD ONE DAY AND DID NOT FIND A COMPLAINT DEPARTMENT AMONG THE DEAD. Ecc. 9:5-6

So here we are alive, when we deserve to be dead, and we are complaining. Jeremiah says it is of His mercy that we are alive.

Lamentations 3:22 It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

Lamentations 3:23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

Who are we to complain?

**1. WHO ARE WE TO COMPLAIN? WHY ARE WE COMPLAINING WHEN WE ARE ALIVE?**

Our Text says wherefore doeth a living man complain.

What is the worst thing that can come upon us?

You can get sick.

You can go bankrupt.

You can wind up in jail.

But even worse than all these, you could die.

The Bible says this is what a sinners deserve.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Wherefore doeth a living man complain, when he deserves death?

THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH.

THE LORD SAID TO OUR GREAT, GREAT, \* \* \* \* Grandfather and Mother, Adam and Eve, "The day you eat of the forbidden tree ye shall surely DIE.."

So they eat and ever since men are dying. As sure as the day we are born there will be a day when we die.

**2. WE WOULD THINK THAT THE WORST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU IS THAT YOU DIE. YET WE ARE ALIVE. ONLY THE LIVING COMPLAIN.**

**A. THAT WE HAVE LIFE PHYSICAL IS THE MERCY OF GOD.**

Each day we live it is but of God's mercy. YET IT IS THE LIVING THAT COMPLAIN. NOT THE DEAD.

The Bible says that God told Adam the day he sinned he would die. We know he died spiritually that day but God in His mercy allowed his body to live on for 930 years. Every day we are allowed to live Physically is a gift of God and His Mercy.

The reality of death hit me as youth one day:

I Remember going to school one day and it was announced that one of our teachers died suddenly over the weekend. She was a music teacher. She was there the previous week and gone the next.

I noticed everyone in the music department went on their merry ways. No one seemed sad. Nothing stopped and life went on.

This lady was a dear lady a really sweet teacher. I liked her a lot. Yet it seemed no one cared that she died. She was gone.

Then I realized how cold this world is. I thought if I died they would do the same. I remember just walking out of the school and skipping that day. THINKING TO MYSELF. Someone dies that everyone knows and no one even cares. I didn't see one person in that school even care that that dear lady was gone. It really bothered me so I just walked out of school and skipped the day.

HOW MUCH WE TAKE LIFE FOR GRANTED. THE LOSS OF IT AND THE FACT THAT WE HAVE IT.

Do we appreciate the fact that we are living?

Life is a gift of God and it is of His mercy that we have it. Also it is very fragile and how easily it can be taken from us.

***Imagine all the people that tragically died the day of 9/11. How many people just thought they would go to work that day and come home again. More people were killed that day than were killed at Pearl Harbor.***

The attack on Pearl harbor killed 2,471.  
The surprise attack on 9/11 killed 2,786.

Realize that 9/11 was the highest casualties of civilians that have ever been killed on American soil by an act of war! More civilians were killed than those killed in the revolutionary war!

How we take life for granted, yet each day we are allowed to live is a gift. Do you know our country is in a sad state of affairs.

WE DO NOT DESERVE TO LIVE ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF GOD.  
WE DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO DEMAND THAT WE LIVE.  
EVERY DAY WE ARE ALIVE IS GRACE AND MERCY ON GOD'S PART.

Question is can we complain if our physical life is cut short? Not really when we are told what we deserve for sin is death. We are under the condemnation of death. When God gives us life it is strictly because of His mercy.

THE IRONY OF JEREMIAH'S STATEMENT IS THIS:

Lamentations 3:39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

Notice what he says, wherefore are we who are alive complaining. We are alive. WHY ARE WE COMPLAINING? WE ARE ALIVE.

### **III. WHO ARE WE TO COMPLAIN: THINK: WHAT IS OUR POSITION TO COMPLAIN?**

#### **1. The truth is we are in no position to complain. We deserve death but we are alive.**

WE ARE ALIVE PHYSICALLY BUT DESERVE DEATH, YET WE COMPLAIN WHY?  
Why are we complaining?

Maybe we do not believe we deserve death.  
Does it matter what we believe. No matter who you are the reality is that every human being must die someday.

We also know people die at every possible age.  
Yet we are alive and are not thankful to God that we are alive.

NOTE: IT IS MORE IMPORTANT WE SHOULD EXAMINE OUR SPIRITUAL POSITION:

ARE WE ALIVE SPIRITUALLY? As a Christian we have far less to complain about!

#### **2. THE PHYSICAL SUFFERING OF THIS LIFE IS TO DRAW US TO SEEK SPIRITUAL LIFE WHICH IS ETERNAL.**

I believe that this Physical world is our school master for the spiritual life that God wants us to have. Our physical life is temporal, our spiritual life is eternal.

GOD IS TRYING TO STIR THE NEST AND DISRUPT OUR PHYSICAL COMFORTS IN THIS LIFE TO STIR US TO LONG FOR ETERNAL LIFE.

EVERY SAVED PERSON WILL RECEIVE CHASTENING IN THIS LIFE  
SOME CHASTENING FOR SIN, SOME CHASTENING FOR LEARNING..  
BUT IN THE NEXT LIFE THERE WILL BE NO SUFFERING FOR THE CHRISTIAN.

Why should we complain?

I Peter 4:16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

I Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

I Peter 4:18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

I Peter 4:19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

Christians often suffer more in this life than the non Christians.

How can we complain? WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

NOW HERE IS WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD.

WHY IS IT THAT WE CHRISTIANS COMPLAIN?

Admit it, we do.

Lamentations 3:39 Wherefore doth a living man complain...

We complain because we have our eyes too much on this physical world. God is trying to stir our nest to prepare us for the eternal.

For the Christian all the suffering of this present life is but temporal.

THE PSALMIST BEGAN TO COMPLAIN.

Psalms 73:1 {A Psalm of Asaph.} Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart.

Psalms 73:2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.

***Psalms 73:3 For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.***

Psalms 73:4 For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm.

Psalms 73:5 They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men.

Psalms 73:6 Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment.

Psalms 73:7 Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish.

Psalms 73:8 They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily.

Psalms 73:11 And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High?

Psalms 73:12 Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.

Psalms 73:13 Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency.

Psalms 73:16 When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;

God's people can easily start complaining, especially as we look at the world around us. And why do we complain?

We think we are not getting what we deserve.

We are getting a bum rap.

Look at these ungodly people who have more than us.

Look at how they prosper.

In this life we will have pain, tribulation, suffering, difficulties.

Be of good cheer Jesus said I have overcome the pain and tribulations of this life,

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

#### **IV. WHAT IS THE SOLUTION TO OUR COMPLAINTS:**

WE NEED TO BE REFRESHED SPIRITUALLY BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD.

WE NEED TO LOOK TO HIM.

THE SOLUTION IS THE SAME FOR US AS IT WAS FOR THE PSALMIST.

Psalms 73:17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.

Psalms 73:18 Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.

**Psalms 73:19 How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.**

Psalms 73:20 As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image.

Psalms 73:21 Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.

Psalms 73:22 So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.

Psalms 73:23 Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.

Psalms 73:24 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

Psalms 73:25 Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.

Psalms 73:26 My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

What suffering can you suffer in this life that can compare to the benefits of eternal life?

### **WHAT IS THE SOLUTION:**

Psalms 73:25 Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.

Psalms 73:26 My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

The solution is to make God our sustenance and our joy.

Who have I but thee. And consider how the story ends.

For those who do not know Christ their suffering when they die does not end.

Psalms 73:17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.

Psalms 73:18 Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.

**Psalms 73:19 How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.**

Consider what God promises us in the end if we trust in him. We are not like the ungodly crowd of this world whose end is eternal suffering.

Make God our all.

WE HAVE NONE BESIDE HIM. In Him we should be content.

Conclusion:

Lamentations 3:39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

JEREMIAH IS SIMPLY SAYING..

If we deserve physical death for sin but we are alive then why are we complaining?

The fact is we also deserve eternal death but God promises us life everlasting if we live for Him.

Yet let us go further.

IF WE HAVE SPIRITUAL LIFE AND THAT LIFE IS NOT TIED IN WITH THIS WORLD.

THEN WHY ARE WE COMPLAINING AND DISAPPOINTED IN THIS WORLD?

No one in the world will get saved as long as they are experiencing contentment in this life. God has to stir our nest in this world to make people discontent with the world and want something more.

John 4:13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

John 4:14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 4:15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

So in this life we get sick.

In this life we experience trials.

In this life we experience heartaches.

In this life we have problems.

In this life there is pain and discomforts.

In this life we are bothered by the cold.

In this life we experience the pain of heat.

Our life needs to be wrapped up in Him.

Psalms 73:22 So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.

Psalms 73:23 **Nevertheless I am continually with thee:** thou hast holden me by my right hand.

Psalms 73:24 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

Psalms 73:25 Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.

Psalms 73:26 My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

God gives us this short life to learn to trust Him and believe on Him.

He brings suffering that we might learn to not find hope and comfort in this world.

Ecclesiastes 7:14 In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him.

When adversity comes consider, this life is full of pain and suffering, but we have the hope of joy eternal if we believe in Christ and have received Him in our hearts.

Not only are we alive today, but God promises eternal life to all who trust Him and life for Him!

Our very spirits groan waiting for the resurrection:

Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and jointheirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Romans 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

Romans 8:23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

So as a Christian we go through pain and suffering in this life, but this suffering is not to be compared to what God has planned for us in eternity. This is our hope, in this we trust God!

So now especially for the Christian this verse takes on new meaning;

Lamentations 3:39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

Why does the Christian complain, maybe in this life we experience the punishment of our sins, but we have the promise of eternal life when we will be comforted. But in eternity we will not suffer.

So after my fingers were freezing, my toes were aching, the trailers where were they were supposed to be I went into the church and it was warm and toasty and I said, to God, who am I to complain. Look at all that you have done for me.

Psalms 73:17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end. I also understood my end, someday my suffering will end.

Lamentations 3:39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

Not only do I have physical life which I don't deserve, God has given me so many blessings on earth that I don't deserve. But I have the promise of eternal life which I don't deserve.

Why Do We Complain?

Are you saved? Do you have the promise of eternal life? Do you have the hope of eternity with Christ?

Is there any pain, any heartache, any suffering in this present life that could take away from that? NO NO NO!

We have no room to complain. Count your blessings.

Psalms 30:5 ..... weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

**EVENING SERVICE ADDENDUM AND CONCLUSION**  
**1-19-20**

**Addendum to messages:**

This morning I talked about not complaining. My message taken from:

Lamentations 3:39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

Now the truth is we really don't have much to complain about when you realize we are saved and headed to heaven. But there are certainly a lot of things that grieve us. I don't think it would be natural not to be grieved as we enter the end times. Was not Noah grieved by the wickedness of his day?

Lot's spirit was vexed from day to day. My question is why did he stay?  
It may have been because of his wife?

Now it is one thing to complain about things that God brings our way and the Bible says,

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

I Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

There is a peace that God gives to His people when we know He is by our side and with us through the trials and tribulations of the day.

Years ago when we were in a bad car accident, through it I could sense that the Lord was with us and protecting us. I could feel an evil that was present but also God's protective hand. I could sense that protection many times in my life.

But now I want to balance out my message from this morning.

The Bible does talk about our righteous souls being vexed..

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Romans 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

Romans 8:20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

Romans 8:21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Romans 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

Romans 8:23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Romans 8:24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

The Bible does say that in our Spirits we groan to be delivered from the bondage of sin and this frail body of ours. We are grieved by this world of bondage and sin.

All the trials of this life are preparing us for the day of our resurrection.

Now as we entered the end times we naturally are grieved by what we see happening in this world.

I do not want to get the impression that it is a sin to be grieved. I don't think it would be natural for us not to be grieved. When we are grieved we many times will even vocalize that grief..

MAL 3:16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

MAL 3:17 And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

MAL 3:18 Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

I believe we are seeing before our very eyes God preparing things for the end times.

**I. I AM GRIEVED AS I SEE THE STRONG DELUSION THE WORLD IS BEING GIVEN OVER TO.**

As we approach the end times we are closer to the end than ever before.

Acts 2:16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

Acts 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

Acts 2:18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

Acts 2:19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

Acts 2:20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:

Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

These verses are talking about the tribulation. During that time there are going to be great cataclysmic events in this world.

Now the devil is preparing this world for this with his delusions:

II Thessalonians 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

II Thessalonians 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

II Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

II Thessalonians 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

II Thessalonians 2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

II Thessalonians 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

II Thessalonians 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

II Thessalonians 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

II Thessalonians 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

II Thessalonians 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

II Thessalonians 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

II Thessalonians 2:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

God says He will send the world a string delusion.

I believe that strong delusion is non other than this radical environmentalism. And paranoia about global warming or climate change.

When all the tribulation comes, the devil I believe will be telling people through his so called scientist that here it is we have been telling you this was going to happen. Everything they are predicating will start happening during the tribulation.

There will be intense heating up of the sun.

Revelation 16:8 And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.

Revelation 16:9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

We read a third part of the waters will be polluted.

Third part of the seas will be turned to blood.

Third part of the trees and grass will be burnt up.

Third part of all men die.

That equates to 2.5 billion people. More people than the population of the US.

Now with all this going on men will believe a lie. They will believe the professors of this world and it grieves my heart because I see the world being primed to believe this lie.

I believe all the cataclysmic events of the tribulation will pave the way for the environmental paradise of the Millennium. Did you ever notice how green the grass grows after a brush fire? This whole world will become like the garden of Eden after the tribulation. God will heat up things and where do you think all that water is going to go? It will go back where it originally was before the flood. God is going to put the canopy back.

Now there is movement today to deny a literal millennial kingdom. How foolish we are. The Bible says it and I believe it and that settles it!

***II I am grieved as I see our nation catering the Islam and their radical ideology over the Christian doctrines and faiths.***

As we approach the end times we read that there will be a beheading of believers.

Revelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

The only ones that are beheading people today are Moslems.

Imagine, the unimaginable is happening in America.

WE NOW HAVE MOSLEMS IN CONGRESS AND EVEN HAD ONE FOR A PRESIDENT IN THE USA!!!

As we approach the end times things are getting bad and will continue to get bad. We have to be conditioned for the Anti Christ.

The world must be groomed to accept him.

World conditions are paving the way for the end times antichrist.

Mark 13:14 But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:

Mark 13:15 And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter therein, to take any thing out of his house:

### ***III. I AM GRIEVED AS I SEE THE WORLD BECOMING LIKE SODOM AND GOMORRAH.***

Luke 17:26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

Luke 17:27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

Luke 17:28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

Luke 17:29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.

Luke 17:30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

I believe our nation is given over to a spirit of confusion because of our immorality.

Our leaders are supposed to rule in the fear of God. They no longer do that.

I believe when they legalized homosexual marriages this was a slap in the face to God and His image. The world doesn't understand this. They call people who oppose their agenda Homophobic. Those who are concerned about the influx of Islam are Xenophobic.

But God is going to have apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah if He allows us to get away with this craziness. I believe that this whole thing with Trump being impeached is

because he doesn't cater to radical environmentalist and the homosexual crowd and a host of other things that he sees as wrecking our country economically.

#### **IV. IT IS ONLY NATURAL TO BE GRIEVED BY WHAT WE SEE IN THE WORLD IN THESE END DAYS.**

I believe as we enter the end times we need to be find our contentment in the Lord more and more.

We need to draw closer to the Lord.

We need to keep our eyes on the Lord.

Jeremiah 45:1 The word that Jeremiah the prophet spake unto Baruch the son of Neriah, when he had written these words in a book at the mouth of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, saying,

Jeremiah 45:2 Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, unto thee, O Baruch;

Jeremiah 45:3 Thou didst say, Woe is me now! for the LORD hath added grief to my sorrow; I fainted in my sighing, and I find no rest.

Jeremiah 45:4 Thus shalt thou say unto him, The LORD saith thus; Behold, that which I have built will I break down, and that which I have planted I will pluck up, even this whole land.

Jeremiah 45:5 And seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not: for, behold, I will bring evil upon all flesh, saith the LORD: but thy life will I give unto thee for a prey in all places whither thou goest.

Lamentations 3:39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

It may be that the Lord may say this to us someday.

Baruch was a good man and there were a lot of good people in Israel that suffered right along side the wicked in the day of Jeremiah.

Ezekiel 9:4 And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

Ezekiel 9:5 And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity:

Ezekiel 9:6 Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.

**GOD PUT A MARK OF PROTECTION ON HIS PEOPLE THAT LOVED HIM.**

Matthew 24:37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Matthew 24:38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

Matthew 24:39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Matthew 24:40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Matthew 24:41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Matthew 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

Matthew 24:43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

Luke 17:26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

Luke 17:27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

Luke 17:28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

Luke 17:29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.

Luke 17:30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Lamentations 3:39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

In that great day of tribulation the Lord warns people that they will need to be content with just their lives.

Imagine what it would be like to have to flee your home.

Imagine what it was like to leave everything.

Imagine what it would be like to be taken into a strange land.

Could this be the case with us? I tell you the world does not love America any more and the world does not love Christians.

Let us draw closer to God in these perilous times.

***Psalms 73:25 Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.***

***Psalms 73:26 My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.***

So as an addendum to this mornings message, I want to remind each of us that we have the promise of eternal life. Our hope is not in this present life or present world. If our hope is here we would be of all men most miserable.

I Corinthians 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

This morning after I got everything ready to plow, I got a call from Lee Mynyk that he needed me to pick him up at the hospital. He had his gall bladder removed. I remember when I had that operation. I suffered for days, they wanted to keep me for a few days in the hospital. I went and picked Lee up and just as I started out to get him the snow started. The roads started getting really bad.

I was shocked to see Lee get right in the car, he was bright eyed and bushy tailed. Not like I was. The difference was, that when they operated on me they couldn't find my gall bladder. It was on the wrong side of my body. I was WAP sided being Italian, I guess. They had to make extra incisions to find my gall bladder and do a little roto-rooting. I thought I was going to die when they did the operation. They took me in in the morning and I didn't get out of the recovery room till late into the evening. I could have died in that operation, but thank God I am here. But someday I will not be as fortunate. Our days are numbered.

Now the truth be told, each of us are going to go through some physical trials in this life, but as Christians we can have the hope of eternal life. Jesus said this:

John 11:26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

We have the promise that we will never die. We have the promise of eternal life. What trials and difficulties in this life can separate us from this hope and promise?

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Romans 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,  
Romans 8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

So I conclude my message with this thought.

Lamentations 3:39 Wherefore doth a living man complain,

We not only have physical life, but we have eternal life. So all the more, why should we complain? But let me remind you it is not wrong to be grieved.

My complaint is not with God but I do have many complaints against the men of this world. You would not love the Lord if you were happy about what is going on. So I want to balance out what I said this morning. I have no complaints to God. But the powers and principalities of this world grieve me tremendously and that is only natural and right.

But we have the hope of eternal life and there is nothing that can separate us from this promise.

PRAISE GOD.. Let's not complain about our lot in life, but let us be vexed and grieved by the sin that abounds all around us!