

# View

"...Having the eyes of your heart enlightened..." Ephesians 1:18

A publication of the church of Christ meeting at 900 E. Natoma, Folsom, CA 95630

## No Tears in Heaven

BY DAVID POSEY

I rarely saw my mother cry. But I'll never forget the day she came to pick me up at my grandmother's house and told me about a terrible accident that had taken the life of two of our friends. A family of four was traveling back home from vacation and someone ran a stop sign and hit them broadside; the father and 10-year old son were killed; the mother and daughter were spared. As my mother told me the sad news, she began to cry, almost uncontrollably. I was 13 and it took me awhile to process what she was saying; but I was as shocked by her tears as I was by the news.

Shedding tears due to sorrow is a fact of life, even for those who tend to be a little less emotional than others. Sorrow doesn't discriminate. I've seen big, strong men awash in tears and almost collapse in grief. We've all seen people cry because of the death of a wife or child, or because the pain of cancer was too great to bear. There are times in our lives when we must "weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15) and it is never a pleasant experience.

So, the promise of going to a place where there are no tears sounds too good to

be true. No tears? For a month? For a couple of months? For a year? No... *forever*.

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

Revelation 21:4



No tears in heaven, ever. That's hard to fathom. If God hadn't said it, who could believe it? But, it's true: among all the wonderful blessings of heaven, there is this one: no tears in heaven.

The term "tears" represents all of those things that tend to strip the joy out of life. It's a figure to describe the reality of death and disease and despair. Tears that come from sorrow and distress stalk us, even in our happiest days. We wait for the other shoe to drop, the inevitable "slings and

arrows of outrageous fortune," as Shakespeare put it. We know that, if we live long enough, there are tears in our future and we dread them.

"...WE HAVE HOPE, BUT HOPE THAT IS SEEN IS NOT HOPE. IT PROMISES SOMETHING BETTER TO COME, BUT DOESN'T TAKE THE PAIN AWAY FROM THE PRESENT. TEARS FLOW, EVEN AS WE READ AND BELIEVE THE PRECIOUS PROMISES OF GOD."

But there is no dread in heaven. There is no sorrow there. Instead, the Lamb on His throne will shepherd us and guide us to springs of living water and God Himself will "wipe away every tear from (our) eyes" (Rev. 7:17).

For anyone who has experienced sorrow in this life because of tragedy or the death of a treasured relative or friend, this promise is precious. We know that there are no promises that our life on earth will be free of tears. The promise is just the opposite: "In this world, you will have tribulation..." (John 16:33). Tears and sorrow and trouble will hound us until the day we die.

But Jesus promises to help us see through the tears. Again, John 16:33: "...but take heart; I have overcome the world." The psalmist assures us that God keeps track of "...our tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in Your book?" (Psalm 56:8). These promises give us hope, but hope is not the reality.

The reality is that we will cry our eyes out at times. We will suffer loss and sorrow will overwhelm us. Sadness will rule us, perhaps for days or weeks or months on end. Our heart will sink with the thought of never seeing our mother or friend or child

ever again in this life. We have hope, but hope that is seen is not hope. It promises something better to come, but doesn't take the pain away from the present. Tears flow, even as we read and believe the precious promises of God.

But hope helps. Knowing God will one day eliminate the experience of sorrow and pain motivates us to live for Him and share His love with others. It puts sorrow into perspective and makes our tears sting a little less. His promises preserve our joy, even when we are not happy because of difficult circumstances.

"No tears in heaven; no sorrow given. All will be glory in that land. There'll be no sadness; all will be gladness, when we shall join that happy band."

Knowing this, we do not grieve as others do, who have no hope (I Thess. 4:13). We sing through our tears and wait, with patience, for the reality of an eternity without tears and sorrow.

**In Difficult moments –  
Seek God  
In Quiet Moments –  
Worship God  
In Painful Moments –  
Trust God  
In Every Moment –  
Thank God**