

The Importance and Benefits of Grief

June 12, 2022

Introduction

Welcome to the Beamsville Church of Christ Online Ministry. Services are presented on YouTube, Facebook and our website one week following recording. The message this week is titled "The Importance and Benefits of Grief." We were extremely blessed and excited to have a group of Great Lakes students lead us in a medley of songs. Thank you to Sophia, Tito, Sharon, Semilore, Gianna, Osaze, Wonu, Deborah, Debbie, Don, Glynnis, and Mike for being part of the video. The scripture reading is John. 16:17-22.

Welcome & Announcements

It's great to see. Wow. So many faces. Holy smokes. There's ton of you from Great Lakes. It's fabulous. Wow. Good to see you all it is a fabulous morning. A fabulous weekend. We've I know our families had lots of fun stuff going on birthdays and celebrations. I don't know if any of you were able to get over to the new park over by, you know, on the other side of Ontario Street, the I forget the Rotary Rotary Club park is ours. Anyway, it was super fun. We wish a special happy birthday to Daniel and Connie and Ralph Williams will be presenting on his mission work in Tanzania at Fenwick on June 12th. And at Tintern on June 19th. If you're interested in finding out more about his work Tim has written a book titled Get Down to Worship. He'd like to do a Bible study based around this book. And if you're interested in participating in that or with or you'd like to find out more about it before you say, Hey, I want to do it, you can speak with him and he'd also be more than happy to sell you a copy of the book. Great Lakes is also looking for a part time cooks, and you can email careers at G, l, c, h, dot c a for more information on that. If you're interested

On a sadder note, we lost a very special member of our congregation this past week. Grant passed away, and certainly we would welcome prayers for Barbara. It's, it's never, ever it's a huge understatement it's never easy to lose a spouse when you've walked through life together for such a long time. It's it's very hard to suddenly find yourself alone. And so I ask your prayers, especially for Barbara. We will be having or they will be having a celebration of life here at the church on August 13th. So if you would like to mark that on your calendars, that would be great. Would you be willing to join with me in a word of prayer? And we'll give thanks to our God for this great day?

Dearest Lord God, thank you so much for everything that you give us. Thank you for this gorgeous day, gorgeous we God. But we also thank you for the rain and we thank you for the storms. It's a little harder to feel happy about thanking you for those. But we do know that we learn a lot through walking through storms and we pray with gratitude that you walk beside us through our storms. We pray with gratitude that you walk beside us with through the good times as well. We pray a special prayer for all of the war torn areas in the world. God, there are so many of them. I know Ukraine comes up for our family, but there are many families all over the world that are also praying for their countries and for their losses. God, we pray that you would continue to work for peace in in so many of these countries. God, we thank you that we live in such a great country. We ask your blessing on the service this morning. We pray that our songs and our ideas, our hearts would soar up to you in a special like

incense rising on the wind. God, we love you. We thank you so much for all that you give us. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

Song Leader

Good morning, church. Today we are blessed to worship God and we're special treat today with some good singing from the fields of Great Lakes Christian College and I'm looking forward to that.

Introduction of Students

I am very excited today that we have a group of students from Great Lakes who have volunteered to sing some of what they are singing today is going to be familiar with us. And you're invited to join in the parts that are familiar, but there are going to be parts that are unfamiliar, and you can let them take the lead through that part if you want to. We're just going to be on this screen behind us, but there's a lot of adlibbing as well, so it might not exactly follow I will watch them warm up and it is so fun. So get ready for some fun and some great worship. Thank you, girls.

Students Singing

Hi, everyone. We're from the Great Lakes Girls Dorm, and we're going to be doing a little bit of Nigerian praise and worship style with you guys today. So feel free to stand and sing along if you know the song.

This Song is a song of praise to me. Well, what do you like to do in the future? But where are you? The present. We thank you, God, for what you will do for us. I know why he keeps that up here and goes this way.

Communion

So I have. Hi, everyone. My name is Semilore and I'm here to take the communion. So I'm going to start with the discerning of his body. Which means to acknowledge, acknowledging all that Jesus has done for us and walking in this liberty and this dominion without any guilt or any condemnation for For there is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

And it says the in relationship to choose, we must after to to for the love of the spirit of for the law of the spirit of life. In Christ, Jesus has made me free from the law of sin. Now, to explain what this means. It means that we acknowledge what God has done in the cross for us and that Jesus has paid for our sickness and disease even before He paid for our sins. That His blood was the redemption of his sins. And so the effect of this sin and bondage can no longer be held in us. Now that makes sin has been paid for. And so we must walk this is as if we own the Earth. So now I'm going to read a Bible verse and like, I'm going to we're going to take the bread together that I read in a verse.

Then we take the drink together. So now it says in first Corinthians Chapter 11 to 23 from 23 to 26. For I have received for I received the Lord, which also which also I delivered on to you that the Lord Jesus Christ on the same nights that He was betrayed, took the bread So can I take the bread?

Not yet, though, took the bread, and then gave thanks. He broke it and said, Take, eat, this is my body. Which we're doing in remembrance. So we take the bread now then. Sorry, after the same manner.

Also, he took the cup and he's and he supped saying, This is the cup. This is, this is this cup. Is the New Testament in my blood.

This do as often as you can, you know, in remembrance of me for as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup you show. Remember the death of God. So we take the drink now. Thank you.

Reading

John 16:17-22

Good morning. That was amazing, girls. Absolutely amazing. The reading this morning is John 16 verses 17 to 22 at this point. Some of his disciples said to one another, what does he mean by saying, in a little while you will see me no more. And then after a little while, you will see me. And because I'm going to the father, they kept asking, What does he mean by a little while? We don't understand what he's saying. Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this. So he said to them, Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, In a little while you will see me no more. And then after a little while you will see me very truly. I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. A woman giving birth to a child has pain because their time has come. But when her baby's born, she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. So with you, now is your time of grief. But I will see you again and you will rejoice. And no one will take away your joy.

Message

Good morning, everyone. I'm so happy that you're with us. And thank you, singers, for such a profound spiritual experience. It's wonderful. Thank you. OK, this may be a first in 44 years of preaching that I may have to blow my nose several times today, which I do hope doesn't happen. It's just one of those colds that come out of nowhere, I guess. Yesterday, I spent time in a community center in Port Carling and spending many years in the North Community Centers. I had a picture of community centers that were most always attached to an arena, and it wasn't the best kept place. But this was amazing. The community center in Port Carling was absolutely beautiful. There was a very, very large audience in attendance. It was for a funeral for a wonderful young woman who passed away at age 37, leaving behind her husband and two very young children. And so that community just responded wholeheartedly to their situation in the pouring out of grief as well as love and support was profound. And I want to spend some time today talking about and it may sound silly, but it's true, talking about how important grief is and not to avoid it. Avoiding grief does damage to your psyche, but also to your soul.

Know Jesus wept and so can we. I came across this article that was written in the year 1692. How many were alive in 1692? It was written and still there at St Paul's Church in Baltimore. It's called the Desiderata, and that's Desiderata means something that is needed, something that is wanted along with integrity, even though grief will come our way and sometimes it does, often it is a reaching up to God.

But the Desiderata is a place of coming in for grief and joy. And everything else, and then going out into the world and also experiencing grief and joy. And so here's what the writer says again it's dated 1692. I'll try to read it so that it makes sense. Go placidly amid the noise and hate and suffering and pain and confusion. And remember what peace there may be in silence and the lessons we can learn

from it all as far as possible. Without surrender, be on good terms with all persons, speak truth quietly and clearly. And listen to others. They have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive people. They are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter for always. There will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career. However humble it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs for the world is full of trickery, but let this not blind you to what virtue there is. Many persons strive for high ideals and everywhere life is full of heroism. Be yourself. Do not feign affection Don't be cynical about love. Take kindly the counsel of the years that have gone by and those who are wise and share with you. Nurture strength of spirit. Do not distress yourself with vain imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Therefore, be at peace with God. And whatever your labors and aspirations in the noisy confusion of life, keep pace with your soul.

You Interesting comment that's made that somehow we can find ourselves in in all of this. And yesterday as people poured out their stories of this wonderful young woman who I had the privilege of marrying, she and her husband many, many years ago. And it's interesting the grief that was poured out by many. It was also interesting that their two little children were running back and forth, back and forth, all the way through the ceremony, missing, missing their mom but the group, the community gathered all around all throughout the day. And they will forever, forever. This is our story and grief is part of who we are. And so Scripture talks about this. Jesus wept and I don't know how you picture excuse me, many of the New Testament books when they're written, but I get the feeling that when the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth and maybe the Church of Galatia, maybe also to the church at Thessalonica, there may be times when he had to put down his quill and weep, sometimes weep because people walked away from the Lord, sometimes weeping because of great torture simply because they were Christian.

But the grief helped them to call out to God in first Peter Two, nine through 12, and then 24 and 25. Here's what he says to a group of people and us as well. But you are a chosen people You are a royal priesthood. I've read that a zillion times. But yesterday this came through. You are a chosen person. You may not know it. You may have never felt it. But when God says it, it's true. You are a chosen person. You are a royal priesthood. You are a holy nation. You are a people belonging to God that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light once you were not a people of God, but now you are a people of God. Once you did not receive mercy, but now you have received mercy. So, dear friends, I urge you as when you feel like you're an alien or a stranger in the world live such good lives that even those who don't believe and may accuse you of doing wrong, they'll see your good deeds and glorify your father who is in heaven.

Queen Elizabeth, who has been in the news lately, said these words Grief is the price we pay for love. Grief is the price we pay for love. It's authentic. It's a pouring out of the soul. And sometimes it's tears that just won't stop flowing. Many of you have experienced loved ones passing away. I don't know how many funerals I have performed and I wish I could say I put as much emotion into every single funeral, but I can't because when it's a personal funeral. When my mother passed away, she suffered for so long and it was a good thing that she passed over. I briefed How about you? Is grief a weakness Is it you're ashamed that you grieve God grieves. When we have pulled ourselves away, it is authentic to the soul. And we know that that's true. But somehow we want to avoid it.

I came across this article a number of years ago, and it's called The Waves of Grief. So you have to picture this picture. A person on a boat caught up in a storm So if you have that picture in your mind, this person is in a boat. They're in a storm. It's called the waves of grief. Says this.

As for grief, you'll find it comes in waves. When the ship is first wrecked, you're drowning with wreckage all around you. Everything floating around you reminds you of the beauty and the magnificence of the ship that was and is no more. All you can do is float you find some piece of wreckage and you hang on for a while. Maybe it's some physical thing Maybe it's a happy memory. Or a photograph. Maybe it's a person who's also floating for a while. All you can do is float All you can do is breathe. All you can do is try to stay alive. In the beginning, the waves are a hundred feet tall and crash over you without mercy. They come 10 seconds apart and don't even give you time to catch your breath. All you can do is hang on and float But in between, you can breathe. In between, you can function. You never know what's going to trigger the grief. It may be a song, a picture, maybe a street intersection, the smell of a cup of coffee. It can be just about anything. And the waves come crashing. But in between the waves, there is life somewhere down the line. And it's different for everybody. You'll find the waves are only 80 feet tall or 50 feet.

And while they still come, they come further apart. You can see them coming. An anniversary, a birthday. Christmas. You can see it coming for the most part. And prepare yourself. And when it washes over you, you know that somehow you will again come out on the other side, soaking wet, sputtering, still hanging on in some piece of wreckage. But you'll come out. You'll learn to survive through the waves. Leave scars but they're beautiful scars. They remind us of the power of love. Remember the scars of Jesus They were for our benefit. So grief. We've accepted. We understand. Grief. Peter talks about grief in First Peter One, three through six. There's joy and there's sadness. There's delight and yet not delight. He says Praise be to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Exclamation point. In his mercy, he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. From the dead. He died. And that darkness, even though it didn't last for long, was pure darkness. It's kept in heaven for you, who, through faith, are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is all ready to be revealed in the last time. And in this you greatly rejoice, though, now for a little while. You may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

So a question. How many of you have never had to grieve 100% never had. How many of you have grieved How many of you still still It's important. It's who you are. And so let me just read a couple of these scriptures. But you. Oh, God, You see trouble and you see grief. And you consider it. And you take it in hand. God knows our grief. A wise son. Proverbs Ten brings joy to his father. But a foolish son brings grief to his mother. I suspect many of us caused our mothers to cry. Sometimes in the past, And then this very pretty sharp comment in 17:21 to have a fool for a child brings grief. There is no joy for a fool or Ecclesiastes for with much wisdom comes sorrow. The more knowledge, the more grief. Think about that. The more you know Grief also comes. Or First Peter 6:10 -- for the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people eager for money have wandered from faith and they pierced themselves with many griefs or in Ephesians. Don't grieve the Holy Spirit of God with whom you were sealed for the day. Of redemption. I had a picture in my mind this week. I don't know if it's true, but I think it is I know that when we grieve, sometimes we grieve alone. I know that when we grieve, sometimes loved ones come and embrace us. But have you ever thought that when we grieve God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, wrap us? Perhaps that helps. Surely it's a continual pouring out of love. This is how much He cares for us. And so in Isaiah, 63. Yet they rebelled. And they grieved. God's Holy Spirit

God loves us so much that he gives us the choice. He could have created us so that we love him tremendously. But that's not really love. It's individual people. Coming to him. And he returns that love to them. He loves every single one. Even those that turn their back And even though people may say strongly, I don't believe in God. At the same time, it echoes back when God says Yeah, but I believe in you.

So lastly, you greatly rejoice even now for a little while, you may had to suffer in all kinds of difficulties. And so we remember and it's not the happiest. And yet maybe it's happy because we understand Queen Elizabeth was right. Grief is the price we pay for love.

Song Leader

Just a few words before we sing a last song. In... Debbie's passage that she read for us today. Jesus promised that to our grief will turn to joy and to service. We're going to joy first. Well done, students. And praising God, you're-- your vitality is important. Your role is important. You're very much a part of us. Thank you, ladies, especially for standing up here and sharing that with us. And you are to be commended. And God is pleased with your offering. And we are overjoyed. And the lesson to learn, we a much needed lesson in today's world. I have been following the news. The awful shootings in certain communities of Buffalo and down in Texas. Never get the -- can say the name of the town but anyways. And all over the place and the world as in the prayer. What's going on in Ukraine and places? In the world that we do not know aware of There's a lot of grieving and there's a lot of opportunity to minister to those that are grieving and our community of. Well, I think our friends where we're from and there's opportunities through prayer to minister to those grieving across the world. So we have a job to do with this job is just to get on your knees and pray for the grieving. Even in our own congregation this past week, we've lost valuable people. Not now, forever, because they get to go home faster than we do. Well, anyways, if anybody knows me, any funeral, I've been here last 12 years. I was because aren't grieving. But anyways, through this last song, we we will sing Hallelujah to the Lord as and remember the joy that we do have in Christ Jesus that we are reminded through by the ladies, through song and dancing.

Closing prayer

Can we bow our heads. So in Jesus name, the mighty of Jesus Lord, I thank you, Lord I thank you, Father, for bringing us here today. For bringing us here that we have shelters over our head and money in our pockets, food on the table. Lord, we thank you Lord for bringing us here peacefully. Lord we thank you for the for what you've done for us, that we've learned the importance of grief and maybe not avoid grief and that when we are going through tough times, though, we shall hold on to the Lord now we shall go to on this Earth and go as if we were chosen as our chosen people by a royal priesthood and holy nation. Are we are a people belonging to God. I shall we shall walk this earth in this confidence, then wish. And I pray for the sake that Lord, Lord show, help them for the weak and the depressed Lord, they should change their lives this week in Jesus name. And I ask that the Lord heals the world and holds up the Church of Christ, that Lord they shall stand completely in the Lord in Jesus name. Lord we thank you for the Great Lakes students that Lord as we're running out this semester. Lord, we thank for that and regarding graduation, Lord, thank God for everything that we're going to do that we meet, that we may, we find favour in your eyes in Jesus' name. And I bless

everyone in this week that we should come back here with testimonies for the church and I will just leave you with this Bible verse from Psalm 68 from nineteen

Blessed be the Lord who daily loadeth, loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. I shall walk in this understanding that every day we shall walk in His benefit and attain all these benefits peace, favour, love that we shall go on this week and our understanding in Jesus name. Amen.

End credits

Thanks for watching or listening. The Beamsville Church of Christ meets at 4900 John Street Beamsville, Ontario. We are currently holding in-person services following provincial COVID19 regulations.

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