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## A Little While (John 16:16-22)

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### 1. We Will Have Sorrows In This Fallen World

We live in a fallen world governed by a fallen angel and we have a fallen nature.

### 2. The Risen Christ Will Turn Our Sorrows Into Lasting Joy

Perspective on “a little while”

- Christ ignores the whole matter of *time*.
- He defines this as the experience of sorrow and pain *in comparison* to what comes after it.
- He is focused only for the inevitable *outcome* – the increase of joy.

### Two Perspectives On Joy

*Perspective 1:* The world’s joy - that comes from things that perish - is temporary. (v.20)

Luke 6:21, 25

Psalms 73:17-20

*Perspective 2:* God brings joy to our lives, not by substitution, but by transformation. (vv.20, 21)

Psalms 30:5b

## Summary

Revelation 2:20

### **5. QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL CONTEMPLATION**

- a. In times of difficulty, we are always concerned about how long a testing is going to last and wondering why we have to go through it. How can/will I allow my understanding on “a little while’ to help me endure the storm in the meantime? How does it make you feel to know that your sorrow is temporary?
- b. Take Home Question  
Turn to Psalm 73 and prayerfully read it three times.  
Meditate on it and learn how God turned the psalmist’s sorrow into joy.

### **6. QUESTIONS FOR CELL DISCUSSION**

- a. God brings joy to our lives, not by substitution, but by transformation (vv.20, 21). Share a specific (transformational) season / incident in your life through which God used to produce joy in you eventually.
- b. “Smooth seas do not make skilful sailors.” – If storms in life are for our ultimate good, should we try to avoid it - through prayer, medicine, better circumstances, etc.?