eXPlain it Fourth Sunday of Easter

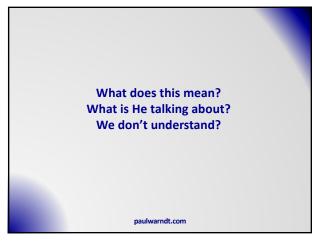
Isaiah 40:24-31 (Do you not know? Have you not heard?) Lamentations 3:19-33 (We are not consumed) Psalm 73 (When my heart was grieved...) 1 Peter 2:9-12 (aliens and strangers in the world) John 16:16-33 (in a little while ... after a little while)

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<u>John 16:16-ff</u>: "<u>In a little while</u> you will see me no more, and then <u>after a little while</u> you will see me." (NIV)



John 16:17-18: 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 am going to the Father'?"

18They kept asking, "<u>What does he mean by</u> 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying." (NIV)

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John 16:19-22: 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'? (NIV)

John 16:19-22: I tell you the truth, 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 her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. (NIV)

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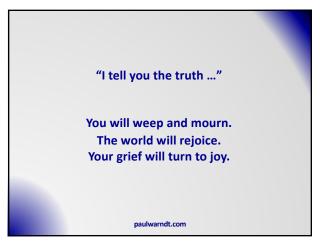
John 16:22: So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. (NIV)

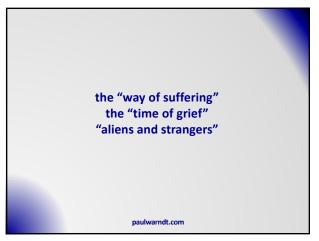
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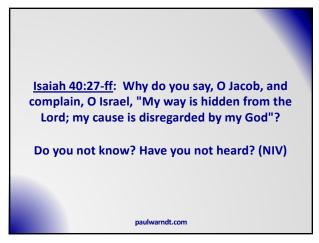












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Lamentations 3:19-33: I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope:

Because of the Lord 's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (NIV)

Psalm 73:21-26: When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you. Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. (NIV)

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<u>1 Peter 2:9-12</u>: Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. (NIV)

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"Now is the time of your grief, but ..."

John 16:19-22: I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. (NIV)

"Now is the time of your grief, but ..."

John 16:19-22: A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is 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. (NIV)

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joy vs. happiness certainty vs. circumstances it is well with your soul even though it might not be well with your world



From the Formula of Concord, Article XI: God's Eternal Foreknowledge And Election Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions

"Furthermore, this doctrine (election) provides glorious consolation under the cross and amid temptations. In other words, God in His counsel, before the time of the world, determined and decreed that He would assist us in all distresses.

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"He determined to grant patience, give consolation, nourish and encourage hope, and produce an outcome for us that would contribute to our salvation. Also, Paul teaches this in a very consoling way. He explains that God in His purpose has ordained before the time of the world by what crosses and sufferings He would conform every one of His elect to the image of His Son.

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His cross shall and must work together for good for everyone, because they are called according to God's purpose. Therefore, Paul has concluded that it is certain and beyond doubt that neither "tribulation, or distress," neither "death nor life," or other such things "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (See Romans 8:28, 29, 35, 38, 39.)

