

Thursday 26 March 2020

Ps.38, 18: *"I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin."*

2Cor.7, 10: *"Godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regrets."*

What the Bible calls worldly grief is one that most would consider the only real one – sorrow over becoming separated from the things in this world that we enjoy. As we are all too aware life is at risk and in danger from many things that cause worldly grief.

Godly grief, as opposed to worldly grief, is known only where it is realised that the far greater and indeed the most serious threat to life is not war or pestilence or economic meltdown etc., but sin. Godly grief arises over the recognition of sin. It cannot be detected under any microscope but there is a test by which its presence is uncovered – the application of the laws which express God's holiness and are most clearly displayed in the words and deeds of Jesus Christ.

The threat sin poses is that it robs us of the presence of God and delivers us over to the power of death. To grieve over it is a hopeful thing because it "produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret".

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1Jn.1, 9) Because the threat of sin is so serious let us rejoice in the gift of the forgiveness of sins which we receive through faith in Jesus, for it is our healing and our restoration to God.