

mar 1

tears in His bottle

"You number my wanderings; put my tears into Your bottle; are they not in Your book?" psa 56:8

i don't know about you but i'm a cryer; an emotional cryer. the world tells us there are three types of tears. basal tears - basal tears are in your eyes at all time to lubricate, protect, and nourish your cornea. reflex tears - reflex tears are produced in response to irritation, such as by smoke, wind, dust, onions, etc. finally emotional tears - emotional tears are produced in response to pain, including physical pain, empathetic pain, sentimental pain, as well as emotional states, such as sadness, happiness, fear, and other emotional states.

i would suppose most emotional tears are reserved for women. the world says it is not manly for men to cry even though we have instances recorded of men weeping. esau wept when he realized his blessing had been stolen. peter wept when he had betrayed Jesus. and yes, the shortest verse in the bible: "Jesus wept." john 11:35

if our emotional weeping is to water spiritual truths, then it is a good thing indeed. how can a real christian help but weep when they see so many paving their road to hell. "blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage. as they pass through the valley of Baca (weeping), they make it a spring." psa 84:5-6 our tears can serve to water the

seeds of life planted in another.

heavens knows this mortal life furnishes us with enough opportunities to weep. "in the world you will have tribulation." john 16:33 the successful christian walk will lead us to the cross and it is through the dying to self that Christ may live in us. "we are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed – always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body." 2 cor 4:8-10 if this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most miserable.

if one has their eyes on this life alone, it's easy to understand why they would be disenchanted and want to eat, drink and be merry instead. that's what the sadducees were. they did not believe in resurrection. then there were the pharisees who believed they had to "earn" their afterlife. i believe those two examples cover the scope of people today who have no Christ in their life. only "the fool has said in his heart, "there is no God." psa 14:1

the truth is, life (in whatever form) continues to be because God continues to be. you know the universe continues to expand because God is. there is only life in God and that life, emanating in all created things, struggles to keep up with the creator. in life, in light, in truth and in love. there's no shadow of turning. it will continue to grow and expand as long as the Word that created it continues.

this God... this amazing God who numbers even the hairs on everyone's head, it seems is collecting our tears in His bottle. i believe He knows when and why each was shed. i also believe the tears shed for His glory or from care of others are like diamonds that will become the jewels with which to decorate the new creation.

the righteous tears we shed must be shed now because there will be no room for tears later. "and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." rev 21:4

will we not weep for those who never turned to the living God in repentance and prayer, especially loved ones? one would think so but God has ruled it out. will the chasm separating life and death be too great for even memory to cross? one of God's greatest miracles may be waiting to be revealed. we must spend our tears on them now. there will be no place for them later.