

**"BE OF GOOD CHEER"****Introduction**

1. The worldly life (in theory) is a sweet life
2. But it turns all bitter in the end
3. The Christian's life here is bitter-sweet – but it is all sweet in the end

**1. CHRIST TELLS HIS PEOPLE WHAT GIVES THEM PEACE**

- 1) Some always:
  - (i) alarm you;
  - (ii) disconcert you;
  - (iii) exaggerate the problems + exhaust you
- 2) Christ always speaks to help us, as here:
  - (i) heaven is a real place: 14:1-3
  - (ii) prayer is real: 14:13-14
  - (iii) we have a heavenly Teacher: 14:26
  - (iv) our mystical Union with Christ: 15:15
  - (v) our duty of mutual love: 15:12
  - (vi) the world hates us for Christ's sake: 15:18
  - (vii) The Holy Spirit will convict others: 16:18f
  - (viii) We shall see Christ one day: 16:16

**APPLICATION**: Such truths are meant to reassure us and give us inward peace.

**2. WE MUST ALWAYS EXPECT TRIBULATION TO BE IN OUR EXPERIENCE HERE ON EARTH**

- 1) Two parts to a believer's experience here:
  - (i) inward peace
  - (ii) outward tribulation: text
- 2) We may get good from tribulation:
  - (i) Romans 5:1-5
  - (ii) It shows us the reality of Satan's power

- (iii) It puts us on our guard: Eph. 6:10f
- (iv) It drives us to prayer
- (v) It looses our attachment to this present world
- (vi) It teaches us to long for glory

**APPLICATION**: Sanctified afflictions are medicinal

**3. GOD'S PEOPLE MUST SEEK TO BE CHEERFUL HERE**

- 1) Christ commands it: "Be of good cheer"  
**OBSERVE**: The believer is to study to be cheerful
- 2) It is a duty which we must not overlook?
  - (i) however great our trials, they might be greater
  - (ii) our trials are all carefully measured by God + tailor-made: 1 Cor. 10:13
  - (iii) our words reflect on our Master
  - (iv) trial is short: triumph eternal:  
**ILLUSTRATION**: Billy Bray: "Trials with a tea-spoon, joys with a ladle!"
- 3) Study to have a cheerful bearing like men on their way to heaven.  
**ILLUSTRATION**: David Hume on miserable saints

**4. THE GREAT REASON FOR OUR CHEERFULNESS**

- 1) Christ has "overcome the world". Here is the great reason par excellence for joy.
  - (i) Christ has now dealt with the world's greatest problem for us: SIN
  - (ii) Christ has become the death of DEATH
  - (iii) Christ has defeated the DEVIL
  - (iv) Christ has glorified God PERFECTLY
  - (v) Christ has ascended to the THRONE  
**APPLICATION**: Our Lord is waiting for us

## CONCLUSION

Here's the secret of the believer's happy life: Moses in Hebrew 11:27: "He endured, as seeing him who is invisible"

**PSALM**

**56: 1 – 7**

**25<sup>1</sup>: 14 – 19**

**56: 8 – 13**