

## **A Few Sighs From Hell or "The Groans of the Damned Soul"**

by John Bunyan

This is a clip for his article

[https://www.gracegems.org/C/Bunyan\\_few\\_sighs\\_from\\_hell.htm](https://www.gracegems.org/C/Bunyan_few_sighs_from_hell.htm)

This is the trap in which the devil has caught many thousands of poor souls, namely by getting them to judge according to outward appearances, or according to God's outward blessings. Ask a poor, carnal, covetous wretch — how we should know a man to be in a happy state, and he will answer, 'Those whom God blesses and gives an abundance of this world to.' Yet, for the most part, they are the cursed men. Alas! Poor men, they are so ignorant as to think that because a man is increased in outward things — therefore God loves that man with a special love, or else He would never do so much for him, never bless him so, and prosper the work of his hands.

Ah! Poor soul, it is the rich man who goes to Hell. 'The rich man died, and in Hell [mark it, 'in Hell'] he lifted up his eyes.' To see how the great ones of the world go strutting up and down the streets, makes me wonder. Surely they look upon themselves to be the only happy men; but it is because they judge according to outward appearances. They look upon themselves to be the only blessed men, when the Lord knows the generality are left out of that blessed condition. 'Not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called' (1 Corinthians 1:26).

Ah! If they who now so brag that nobody dares scarcely look on them did but believe this, it would make them hang down their heads and cry, 'Oh, give me Lazarus' portion!' I might here enlarge very much — but I shall not. I shall only say to you who have much of this world, take care that you do not have your portion in this world. Take heed that it is not said to you hereafter, when you would very willingly have Heaven, 'Remember that in your lifetime you had your good things — in your lifetime you had your portion' (see Psalm 17:14).

And friend, who seeks after this world and desires riches — let me ask this question: Would you be content that God should put you off with a portion of this life? Would you be glad to be kept out of Heaven, and go to Hell — with a well-clothed back and a belly filled with the dainties of this world? Would you be glad to have all your good things in your lifetime, to have your Heaven last no longer than while you live in this world? Would you be willing to be deprived of eternal happiness and felicity?

If you say no — then have a care of the world and your sins; have a care of desiring to be a rich man — lest your table be made a snare to you (Psalm 69:22); lest the wealth of this world bars you out of glory. For, as the apostle says, 'Those who will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition!' (1 Timothy 6:9).

**Today is April 21, 2024**

**Sovereign Grace**

**Missionary Baptist Church**

*"Where the Truths of God's Word Have Been Taught  
for Sixty-Two Years" Since October 21, 1961*

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## **••Our Prayer List••**

*"Pray without ceasing." 1 Thess. 5:17*

Sister Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son's Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Daughter Shannon, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Tyler Castle, Danny Mollette, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ricky Henderson and Family, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Jerry Hughes, Shirly King - Son David - and family, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Little Weslynn McClelland, Adrienne Lavina, Pastor Nathan Hille and Sister Cassie and his family, Baby Titus Massey, Shane and Brook Sims, Ricky Bennett, Nick, Madison, and Baby Emory Patty, and Russell York, Brother Medic, Sister Mhalyn Lavina and children, Brother Jerry Dodson, Brother Gary and Sister White, Brother David and Sister Jevonna O'Neal, Sister Rebecca Sidders.

## **••Pray For Our Church Supported Mission Works••**

*"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8*

Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan in Thailand, Elder Raul and the Printing work Romania, and the Berea Baptist Banner Mantachie, Ms.

## **"A Message from Pastor Johnson"**

*"Feed the flock of God which is among you,  
taking the oversight thereof..." 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:2*

### *"How much does God allow Satan to harm us?"*

*Job 1:9 – 12*

Have you ever wondered how much Satan has to do with things in your life? So many Christians do not understand just how much Satan's able do in their life, but God knows. God is Omniscient which means God knows everything, not a few things, not some things, not most things, but everything. The truth of the matter is Satan can do nothing unless God allows it, in fact no being in existence has any ability at all except that it be given to them for the All-Powerful God. God created every being in existence as He chose what he wants them to be. "Hath not the potter power over the clay..." Rom. 9:21. People have a hard time understanding what God is able to do, but please understand that every creature is exactly what God has created it to be, "Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?" Therefore, God created Satan to be Satan and to be the vilest creature in existence. Satan, at the time Lucifer was a high-ranking Angel, even an Archangel until He fell. Today we know him as Satan, the archenemy of God and even everyone connected to God. Satan has great powers, and if God allowed him, he could and would kill every Christian on this earth. However, as we saw in the event of Job, he is limited to God's power. God said to Satan, "And the LORD said unto Satan, *Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand...*" This means that Satan was able to do as he pleased with everything Job had, but Job himself was not to be overtaken with sickness nor was his life to be taken. Can you imagine what life would be like for you if God was to give Satan that power over you? Satan asked God, "Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side?" Job 1:10 The answer was yes God did, just as God has a hedge over all of us. A hedge is like a fence for our protection but also for our restraint in life. Satan also told God about Job, "thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land." Yes, God did bless Job with much and Job knew that God had and this is why when this satanic persecution came upon him, he never cursed God. Job realized a truth very few people understand, and that is God provided him with everything in life and if God took it all, he was still blessed. This is why Job said, "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." Job 1:21 – 22

## **Pastor Johnson, Continued**

This is simply amazing. Job had so much and lost everything, he did not pout, he did not ask God why, he did not curse God, he was not mad at God, he did not blame God, he didn't even blame Satan, he simply "blessed be the name of the LORD."

As God's children we must understand that God has a hedge about us and with that hedge we are protected as well as we are restricted by God. We live, move, and have our being by the grace and power of God. Our strength is in the Lord and in our understanding as to exactly what God has ordained for us in this life. Every part of our life from birth to death and beyond is exactly what God has ordained for us. Paul understood this when he said, "by the grace of God I am what I am" 1 Cor. 15:10 and Jesus understood this throughout His life and even in His death. Job blessed the name of God and Jesus never opened His mouth but suffered as God had ordained. "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." John 6:38.

The truth is, Satan can only harm us as much or as little as God allows him too. As much as he would love to make our life miserable and even kill us all, he cannot. We all need to stop looking for someone to blame for our miseries in life and be like Job, and continually bless the name of God in everything.

## **Church Information and Happenings.**

1. We are still working on our clean-up from the three trees falling at the Parsonage. The insurance adjuster said it will be several days before we know if the insurance will pay some of the clean-up and repairs or none of them. Please make this a continual prayer before the Lord.

### **John 6:47 - 38**

*"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. I am that bread of life."*

*...as for me and my house,  
we will serve the Lord.*  
-Joshua 24.15