

# LAMENT

Part 7  
“Lamenting Unbelief”

March 15, 2026

## WORSHIP IN SEASONS OF SORROW

### Introduction: The Light of Faith

“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen not only because I see it but because by it I see everything else.”  
—C.S. Lewis, *Is Theology Poetry?* (A lecture delivered at the Oxford Socratic Club)

**Main Point:** We can lament the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world around us even as trust the Lord to guard us from discouragement and compromise.

### Unbelief Considered

- Following in the pattern set by our first parents, unbelief is primarily characterized by:
  - (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 3:1-5)
  - (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 3:6-7)
- In unbelief, people reject the true \_\_\_\_\_ of God that we innately possess.  
Rom. 1:18-20—<sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup>For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup>For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.
- In unbelief, people are prone to pursue false \_\_\_\_\_ and the worship of \_\_\_\_\_.  
Rom. 1:22-23—<sup>21</sup>For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

**Key Point:** Unbelief should be understood as the rejection of the \_\_\_\_\_ that we belong, body and soul, to our Creator and the embrace of the \_\_\_\_\_ that we can be our own god.

### Life in an Unbelieving World

- Unbelievers \_\_\_\_\_ their darkness and \_\_\_\_\_ the light of God’s truth.  
John 3:19-20—<sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. <sup>20</sup>For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.  
Rom. 1:32— Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.
- Believers will therefore at times face \_\_\_\_\_ in world.
  - (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
Psa. 22:7-8—<sup>7</sup>All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; <sup>8</sup>“He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”  
1 Pet. 4:4—With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you
  - (2) \_\_\_\_\_  
Psa. 37:32—The wicked watches for the righteous and seeks to put him to death.  
Acts 7:54,57-58—<sup>54</sup>Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him... <sup>57</sup>But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. <sup>58</sup>Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him.
- The unbelief around us can tempt us to fall into \_\_\_\_\_.  
Psa. 69:19-20—<sup>19</sup>You know my reproach, and my shame and my dishonor; my foes are all known to you. <sup>20</sup>Reproaches have broken my heart, so that I am in despair. I looked for pity, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none.

- **The unbelief around us can tempt us to fall into \_\_\_\_\_.**

2 Tim. 3:1-5—<sup>1</sup> But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. <sup>2</sup> For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, <sup>4</sup> treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

\* Apostasy can come in the form of \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ (usually both).

**Key Point:** Our \_\_\_\_\_ in the face of these things is found in our Savior.

John 16:33—I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

### Lamenting Unbelief

- **We should lament the rejection of God and the deception that we see in the world around us.**

Psa. 119:136—“My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law.”

Luke 19:41-42—<sup>41</sup> And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, <sup>42</sup> saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

Rom. 9:1-3—<sup>1</sup> I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—<sup>2</sup> that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup> For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh.

⇒ *Lament guards us from despair and from becoming \_\_\_\_\_ to the unbelievers in our lives.*

Matt. 5:14-16—<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

2 Cor. 4:3-5—<sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

- **We should lament the apostasy that we see in the world around us.**

Jer. 13:17—“But if you will not listen, my soul will weep in secret for your pride; my eyes will weep bitterly and run down with tears, because the LORD's flock has been taken captive.”

Phil. 3:18-19—<sup>18</sup> For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

2 Tim. 4:9-10,16-17—<sup>9</sup> Do your best to come to me soon. <sup>10</sup> For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica...<sup>16</sup> At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! <sup>17</sup> But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me...

⇒ *Lament guards us from \_\_\_\_\_ those who begin down the path to apostasy.*

Heb. 3:12-13—<sup>12</sup> Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. <sup>13</sup> But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

1 Pet. 4:12-14—<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

**Key Point:** Lament keeps us both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as we walk with the Lord in an unbelieving world.

### Concluding Thoughts—John 15:18-27

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**Main Point:** We can lament the unbelief of the world around us even as trust the Lord to guard us from discouragement and compromise.

### Unbelief Considered

- Following in the pattern set by our first parents, unbelief is primarily characterized by:
  - (1) Deception (Gen. 3:1-5)
  - (2) Rejection (Gen. 3:6-7)
- In unbelief, people reject the true knowledge of God that we innately possess.  
Rom. 1:18-20—<sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup>For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup>For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.
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**Key Point:** Unbelief should be understood as the rejection of the truth that we belong, body and soul, to our Creator and the embrace of the lie that we can be our own god.

### Life in an Unbelieving World

- Unbelievers love their darkness and hate the light of God’s truth.  
John 3:19-20—<sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. <sup>20</sup>For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.  
Rom. 1:32— Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.
- Believers will therefore at times face hostility in the world.
  - (1) Verbal  
Psa. 22:7-8—<sup>7</sup>All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; <sup>8</sup>“He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”  
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  - ⇒ ***Lament guards us from despair and from becoming callous to the unbelievers in our lives.***  
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### Concluding Thoughts—John 15:18-27