

There Shall Be No More Sorrow, Crying or Pain
A Holy Supper Address in Preparation for New Church Day
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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. *Revelation 21:4*

For all who are experiencing deep grief or can clearly remember feeling this kind of deep sorrow the Lord's words in the book of Revelation is a wonderful promise. God shall wipe away every tear. There will be no more sorrow or crying, no more pain--a promise of heaven.

One might think from these words that angels are never sad, but this isn't true. They do experience times of sadness, but they never feel the desolation that we can sometimes feel. They never feel an overwhelming sense of hopelessness.

What are angels sad about? We read in the teachings for the New Church of them being sad that the doctrine of the New Church is not more readily accepted by people in this world (*Conjugal Love* 533). They can be saddened, horrified, or irritated by the evils they sense in spirits and people (*Apocalypse Explained* 1111). Angels can feel sadness when they sense people who believe that prayer by itself will earn them salvation and from their much praying despise others who don't do what they do (*Last Judgment:Posthumous* 157). Angels feel sadness when they sense the harm that is being done to others.

There is even a passage that speaks of the sadness the Lord can feel. It is an explanation of the inner meaning of John seeing an angel who "cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars" (Revelation 10:3). About this image we are told:

This symbolizes a grievous lamentation that the church was taken from [the Lord]. . . . A lamentation over this is what the angel's roaring like a lion symbolizes; for a lion roars when it sees its enemies and is attacked by them, and when it sees its young or its prey carried off. The same is comparatively the case with the Lord when He sees His church carried off by devils. (*Apocalypse Reveled* 471)

While the angels can feel sadness they don't ever sense a hopelessness about their own welfare and happiness. They have such a profound trust in the Lord that they have no fear about the future. They never worry that problems will be overwhelming. They do not feel deep personal emptiness and loneliness. They feel loved and cared for by the Lord. They know that they will always be guided and protected by Him. They are in the life of heaven and know that they will be there to eternity. Consequently, they never fear damnation.

Their state is not one that people in this world, even those on the path of regeneration, experience constantly. We, with the ups and downs of our spiritual life, can feel a fear of hell and damnation. The teachings for the New Church speak of the fear of damnation that can come when a person feels a sense of desolation. Therefore, the *Arcana Caelestia* states "When a

person is being regenerated damnation is not present, but the fear of damnation is” (*Arcana Caelestia* 6140).

What is this fear of damnation that is represented by the “death, sorrow, and crying” that the Lord promises to take completely away? Consider this definition: “whether you say a state of nothing but false ideas arising from evil loves or damnation it amounts to the same thing” (*Arcana Caelestia* 7952). If we are paying attention we can observe states of mind in which our thoughts are so clouded by concerns and issues that we do not correctly see anything around us. This happens when a person is hurt by perhaps a tiny negative comment made by another person and is plunged into a state of deep discouragement. It happens when we clumsily trample on another person’s feelings because we haven’t even noticed that they are deeply concerned about something. It happens any time we need to make a decision, large or small, and focus on only a tiny part of the important issues needed to make a wise decision and instead do something that is hurtful to us or others.

When a person recognizes that there are evil loves active in his or her mind, at times shutting out the light of heaven, there can be fear of damnation. People can realize that by themselves they cannot do what they would like to do. This can be especially present in a state of spiritual temptation when a person’s good loves and true ideas are under major assault by the hells. In this assault the hells work to inspire motivations and ideas in us that we will sense as our own and from which we will act. When a person who has something of a love of what is genuinely good and true recognizes these qualities within, there is sadness and an appropriate fear of the life that the hells are seeking to inspire.

A person who is undergoing temptations – even a very good person – can feel great sadness at the state of mind this temptation brings about. When the Lord was in the world He experienced worse temptations than we can imagine. In the teachings for the New Church is states:

The Lord's temptations against the hells are described . . .by Jonah when in the stomach of the great fish, as also in other parts of the Word, especially in David. A person undergoing temptation is within the hells. Being in the hells is not at all a question of place but of state. (*Arcana Caelestia* 1691:5)

The Lord would have us recognize in these states of temptation and consequent sadness and doubt that we need His help. We need to receive the true ideas from Him that can dispel some of the darkness. We need to be strengthened in the good loves that only He can bring to our lives.

The sacrament of the Holy Supper represents our acknowledgment of this need. It represents our conscious turning to the Lord to receive the life of heaven. The bread represents the love that the Lord can give us. It is this love that will keep us being overwhelmed by the criticism, intended or otherwise, from others. It can help focus our minds on the welfare of the people around us in ways that lead us to insights on their hopes and fears, their needs and concerns. We will see them more and more with the Lord’s eyes and know how to best interact with them. The wine represents the wisdom or truth that the Lord can give us. It is this truth that allows the light of heaven to shine within our minds. It helps us to see what to do and not do. It helps us to recognize the attacks of the hells for what they are and not accept them as our own.

As we gradually receive more and more of the Lord's life we will come into the peace and trust that takes away a fear of the harm hellish loves and ideas bring to our own minds. We will be strengthened in a sense of the allegiance to the Lord's commandments. We will be ever more sure of His love. We will know He will guide us. This is the state that the Lord promises by His words in the book of Revelation. This is what He means when He says:

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.
Revelation 21:4 AMEN.

Lessons: *Revelation 21:1-6, Apocalypse Revealed 884:1-2*

Revelation 21:1-6

¹ Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. ⁴ 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." ⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." ⁶ And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.

Apocalypse Revealed 884:1-2

"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more toil, for the former things have passed away." This symbolically means that the Lord will take away from them all grief of mind, all fear of damnation, all fear of evil loves and false ideas from hell, and of temptations or trials on account of them, and they will remember them no more, because the dragon that inflicted them has been cast out. . . . But this needs to be illustrated. Every person after death comes first into the world of spirits, which is midway between heaven and hell, and there he is prepared, a good person for heaven, and an evil one for hell. And because associations are formed there as in the natural world, it had to be the case, before the Last Judgment, that people who outwardly were civic-minded and moral but inwardly evil met up with and conversed with people who likewise were outwardly civic-minded and moral but inwardly good. And because inherent in evil people is a desire to lead astray, therefore the good people with whom they associated were harassed by them in various ways. But those who grieved because of their torments and began to experience fears of being damned, of evils and falsities flowing in from hell, and of undergoing severe temptation or trial - these the Lord removed from association with the evil and conveyed them into a land below the one they were on, where they formed new associations, and there were protected. Moreover, this continued until all the evil had been separated from the good, which was brought about by the Last Judgment; and then those who were protected in the lower land or earth were raised by the Lord into heaven.