

GOOD NEWS & BAD NEWS  
Text: Revelation 10:10

INTRO: You've heard jokes about good news & bad news. But the fact that life is a daily combination of good news & bad news is no joke. Often that which at the moment seems bad turns out to be a blessing in disguise. Sometimes that which seems to be good news turns out to be not so good in the final analysis.

I. NOAH & THE FLOOD. Gen. 6:13-16.

Why me? All this extra work... NOTE: The righteous most frequently share in the problems that are caused by the ungodly. But their share in those problems will not be an equal share with the guilty.

II. INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF JOSEPH.

A. His own brother sold him into slavery--but they had earlier planned to kill him.

B. after becoming a house-hold servant of Potiphar, Joseph was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife & imprisoned.

C. While in prison, he interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh's butler & baker, but when the butler was in a position to help gain Joseph's release, the butler forgot him.

D. These & many other tragedies worked out to produce a temporal salvation to the 12 tribes of Israel, became the occasion for the fulfillment of prophecies made to Abraham, & eventually helped Joseph go down in history as one of the great Bible characters of all time.

Gen. 45:5-8; 50:20-21

III. THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST. Good news or bad?

IV. PAUL'S THORN IN THE FLESH. Good news or bad?

2 Cor. 12:7-10

V. THE PERSECUTION OF THE EARLY CHURCH. Acts 8:1, 4

VI. EVEN PHYSICAL DEATH DOESN'T HAVE TO BE BAD NEWS.

I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. (1 Thess. 4:13).

READ PHILIPPIANS 1:21-23

VII. LIKEWISE, MANY THINGS WHICH SEEM TO BE GOOD  
MOMENTARILY ARE NOT NECESSARILY GOOD FOR  
US IN THE LONG RUN.

- A. Candy tastes better than broccoli.
- B. When David heard the news that Uriah was out of town...
- C. When Ananias came up with a scheme to keep his money & still get credit for giving it...

CONCLUSION: We need to look beyond the temporal, beyond the surface, & seek for that which is truly, eternally good. Obviously, all of us prefer prosperity to adversity, but if the truth were known, prosperity has probably destroyed more souls in the history of the world than poverty ever came close to wrecking. The REAL secret of successful living, spiritually & physically, is to learn to make the most of the things that happen, whether they seem to be good or bad. It has been wisely said that things turn out best for those who make the best of the way things turn out.

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Shiloh, Mexia, TX, January 7, 1996