

Chap

In the World Ye Shall Have Tribulation Jn. 16:33 May 3, 1984

In Tribulation Coming in our Lifetime

I have a little more time this morning than I've had when I've spoken recently. I have a very big subject so I'm rather glad to have the time. I want to start with referring to a v. in Scripture that I imagine all of you are familiar with. It is found in the book of John in the 16th ch. at the very end of the ch., at the end of the long discourse that our Lord gave after Passover Supper on the night He was betrayed. We read He said, "I have told you these things that in me ye might have peace. In this world you will have trouble but take heart I have overcome the world."

"In this world you will have trouble." Who is there among us who has not had trouble? Who is there that will not have trouble? There are all kinds of trouble. There are big troubles that are terribly vexing to us. There are little troubles we allow to bother us. Trouble comes into the life of everyone. Whatever trouble you have you can immediately know that there is one of two things you should do. 1) If possible you should solve the problem, whatever it is. 2) Most of the problems we have are matters we can easily solve or that we can recognize are not important. That are little things we should not allow to bother us.

But there will be troubles in the lives of all of us that we can do nothing about. Troubles that we have to put up with that there is no way we can get over them. In such a case I believe we can say with certainty that God has allowed it to come into our lives for a definite purpose. That He has a blessing to bring us through that trouble. If we can accept the trouble as from His hands, as something He has sent for our good, we will receive a real blessing from it.

When you are in the midst of a situation it is sometimes hard to realize this. But I believe that it is always true that our troubles fall in one of these two categories. Somebody has said, Don't worry about anything; if you can help it, help it; if you can't help it why worry? I believe all the troubles we get in life fall in one of these two categories.

Yet I have a question whether this v. is correctly translated, in the NIV. "In this world you will have trouble." I have always found that one of the most useful books for Biblical interpretation that I've ever seen, a book that I think is worth more than any six commentaries put together is Young's Analytical Concordance. Because when you find a word in the KJV, you find a word and you want to know just a little closer, what does this word mean? There is only one way to tell. That is to see what the context is. If you take the English word "trouble" and see everywhere it is used and look at the context, that tells you very little about the meaning of the passage because "trouble" may translated 10 different Greek words.

But if you will look in Young's Concordance, you will immediately see what the word is that is used in this case. You note whether it is trans. 2 or 3 times that way, or it may be 30 or 40. You immediately will get an idea whether that comes rather close to fitting it, or whether it is only on the edge of the meaning of the word. It is not necessarily a wrong translation, to be on the edge, but you get a much better idea of the meaning of the word if we see the context in which it is used.