

“A Little While”
John 16:16-22

Introduction:

1. Let's Return In Our Bibles This Morning:
 - To John 16 - Where:
 - The Lord Jesus Has Been Sharing:
 - Some Pretty Heavy Things:
 - With His Disciples!
 - On What Would:
 - Probably Become To Them:
 - The Longest Night:
 - Of Their Lives!
 - Even A Night:
 - That Would Last For Days:
 - A Night That Seemed To Them:
 - Would Never End!
2. Have You Ever Had:
 - One Of Those Nights?
 - Restless & Sleepless:
 - Filled With Worry & Distress?
 - Just Wishing & Just Hoping:
 - That Morning Would Come?
 - Not Just With Sunlight:
 - Shining Through The Windows - But With:
 - Just Some Of That Light:
 - Reaching Your Heart & Soul?
3. Well - In The Verses We Come To This Morning:
 - We Find Jesus Promising:
 - To His Disciples:
 - Some Of That Sunlight:
 - That Would Break Up The Darkness:
 - Of Their Night - That They Were Already Going Through:
 - That Night!
 - You See - Jesus Already Told His Disciples:
 - About His Departure:
 - From This World!
 - And - Even Though At This Point:
 - They Didn't Fully Understand That:
 - His Departure Involved His Death!
 - Their Hearts - According To 16:6:
 - Were Still Filled With Sorrow:
 - And Darkness!
 - But - Even More - Jesus Told His Disciples:
 - About Their Distress:
 - That They Would Face:
 - Both In This World & By This World:
 - After His Departure!
 - And This Added To:
 - The Deep & Dark Sorrow:
 - Of Their Hearts! So That:
 - The Night Started To Feel A Little Longer Already!
4. But Even Though:
 - Jesus Had Already Tried To:
 - Comfort Them - With His Promise About:
 - The Comforter - Who Is:
 - The Holy Spirit - Who Would Come:
 - To Continue Jesus' Ministry:

- Both To Them & To The World!

- But Even With This Promise:

- The Disciples Didn't Seem As Convinced:

- As Jesus Was That:

- It Would Be Better / More Expedient:

- For Them That He Go Away!

- Because - It Was Jesus:

- They Knew!

- They Followed!

- They Loved!

- How Could Things Get Any Better:

- Without Him?

5. So - In 16:16-22 - Jesus Offers:

- Another Promise Of Light:

- That Would End The Night:

- They Were Just Entering Into!

- And That Promise Was:

- According To 16:16 - That:

- In "A Little While" They Would:

- See Him Again!

- Let's Read These Verses Of Encouragement Together:

- 16:16-22 - "A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father. / Then said some of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me: and, Because I go to the Father? / They said therefore, What is this that he saith, A little while? we cannot tell what he saith. / Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye enquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me? / Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. / A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. / And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you!"

6. Now - Even Though It Is Clear:

- From What We Just Read That:

- Once Again - The Disciples Had No Clue:

- What Jesus Was Talking About!

- We Are Able To Understand:

- From Our Vantage Point:

- That In 16:16 - Jesus Was Giving His Disciples:

- A Basic Time-Line:

- Of All That Was Going To Happen To Them:

- Starting That Night!

- When Jesus First Said:

- 16:16a - "A Little While, And Ye Shall Not See Me!"

- Jesus Was Dealing With:

- The Time Of His Departure:

- Through His Death:

- On The Cross!

- And - It Was True That:

- In Just "A Little While" - Even:

- In A Matter Of Hours:

- He Would Be Taken From Their View For A Time!

- And - At That Time & Through That Time:

- It Would Be For His Disciples:

- A Time Of The Greatest Darkness And Grief:

- They Had & Would Ever Experience In Their Lives!

- But - Jesus Knew That:

- This Would Not Be The End:

- Of The Story!
 - Because Then - Jesus Added:
 - 16:16b - “And Again, A Little While, And Ye Shall See Me!”
 - And With These Words - Jesus Was Talking About:
 - The Time Of His Return:
 - Through His Resurrection:
 - From The Dead!
 - And - Jesus Knew That This Would Begin:
 - The Time Of Light And Gladness:
 - For All Those Who:
 - Believe In Him!
 - Both Then & Now!
7. And So - To Comfort The Disciples:
 - He Wanted Them To Know That:
 - The Period Of Grief & Sorrow:
 - That They Were Already Experiencing:
 - Would Only Last:
 - “A Little While!”
 - Even Though:
 - That Grief Would Still Grow:
 - When They “Shall Not See” Him!
 - But - He Also Wanted Them To Know That:
 - A Period Of Gladness & Joy:
 - Would Soon Come To Them:
 - Also - In Just - “A Little While!”
 - And The Reason He Gives For Both:
 - Is Because - “I Go To The Father!”
 - Now - Even Though Some Translations & Manuscripts Don’t Have This Phrase Here In 16:16!
 - It Still Explains Why:
 - In “A Little While” The Disciples:
 - Won’t See Jesus! And Then:
 - In “A Little While” After That:
 - They Would See Him!
 - Because - When Jesus Died:
 - He Died To Perform His Mission:
 - For His Father!
 - And So - When He Died:
 - He Went Directly To:
 - His Father In Heaven!
 - But Then - When Jesus Rose Again:
 - He Did So To Prove That His Mission:
 - Was Fully Accomplished & Completely Satisfied:
 - His Father!
8. But - Of Course:
 - All Of This Was Lost:
 - On The Disciples At This Point!
 - And So - Confusion Was Added:
 - To Their Sorrow! So Much So That We Read:
 - In 16:17-18 - “Then said some of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me: and, Because I go to the Father? / They said therefore, What is this that he saith, A little while? we cannot tell what he saith!”
 - Now - Based On Their Own Words:
 - They Heard What Jesus Said - And:
 - Could Even Quote Him:
 - Word For Word!
9. “A Little While?”
 - Now - At This Point:

- They Should Have Started Asking Jesus:
 - Some More Questions!
- Because - They Were Clearly Confused:
 - About His Departure:
 - "In A Little While!"
 - About The Duration Of His Departure:
 - "For A Little While!"
 - And - About His Destination During His Departure:
 - "Because I Go To The Father!"
- But - What Jesus Said:
 - Went Over Their Heads:
 - Because - They Didn't Think:
 - They Were Ready For All Of This!
 - But - For Some Reason:
 - They Couldn't Get Themselves To:
 - Ask Jesus About These Things!
 - So - They Asked Each Other:
 - With No Answers / No Solutions / Like The Blind Leading The Blind!

10. But Then - Jesus Takes This Opportunity:

- To Explain To Them:
 - A Little More About:
 - The Two Periods He Just Described!
- You See - Jesus Did Care For:
 - The Confusion & Concern Of His Disciples!
 - And So - From 16:19 - "Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye enquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me?"
- And This Leads Up To:
 - Another One Of His "Verily, Verily" Statements!
 - Which Is Even The 23rd Out Of 25:
 - In The Gospel Of John!
 - In Which He Provides:
 - Another Truth That Is:
 - Absolutely Certain!
 - "Verily, Verily!"
 - Constant!
 - "I Say!"
 - And - Consequential!
 - "Unto You!"
 - And So - Jesus Wanted His Disciples:
 - To Listen Up!
 - And - He Wants Us To Do The Same!
 - Because - Even Though:
 - We Don't Know Just How Much:
 - His Explanation & Illustration:
 - Would Help - At That Point!
 - It Would Help:
 - As They Needed It To!
 - And - It Would Help Us Too!
 - Because - Jesus Wanted Them To Know That:
 - The Period That Would Lead Up To Jesus' Departure:
 - Through His Death - Would Be For Them:

1. ***A Period Of Great Grief!***

- In 16:20 - Jesus Gives More:
 - Explanation About Their Grief:
 - When He Says - "Ye Shall Weep And Lament, But The World Shall Rejoice: And Ye Shall Be Sorrowful!"

- All Three Words:
 - That We Find Here - That Deal With Grief:
 - Are Often Found In Contexts:
 - Of Death!
- To “Weep” Here Describes:
 - A Very Personal Grief:
 - That Can Be Displayed:
 - With Heartfelt Tears!
 - The Last Time This Word Was Used In John:
 - Was When Jesus’ Friend Lazarus Died:
 - In Chapter 11 - When:
 - His Sister Mary & His Other Friends Were Weeping!
- To “Lament” Here Describes:
 - A Public Display Of Grief:
 - Like A Funeral - But:
 - Was A More Formal Way To Express Grief Over The Death Of A Loved One!
- And - To “Be Sorrowful” Here Again Describes:
 - A Penetrating Grief:
 - That The Disciples Were Already Feeling:
 - Deep Within Their Hearts!
- So - As Bad As They Were Feeling:
 - Jesus Explains To His Disciples:
 - That In “A Little While” - Things:
 - Were Going To Get Even Worse For Them!
 - Because - “Ye Shall Not See Me!”
 - And - He Would Be Taken From Them:
 - By Death! In A Very:
 - Sudden & Shocking Way For Them!
- And - To Make Matters Worse:
 - “The World Shall Rejoice” Over:
 - His Death & Their Grief!
 - And - They Would Be As Happy:
 - At His Death - As They Would Be:
 - At A Wedding! (3:29)
 - At Harvest! (4:26)
- But Then - In 16:21 - Jesus Gives An:
 - Example Of Their Grief:
 - When He Says - “A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come!”
 - So - Jesus Compares:
 - Their Sorrow & Grief:
 - With That Of A Woman:
 - In Labor / In Travail!
 - Now - Why Does He Use This Illustration?
 - Probably Because Of How:
 - The Pain Intensifies:
 - As A Woman’s Labor Goes On!
 - But Also Because Of The Way Its Put:
 - In That Jesus’ “Hour” Had Come:
 - Even As A Woman’s “Hour” Comes To Deliver A Child!
- And Then - In 16:22 - Jesus Adds His Own:
 - Empathy For Their Grief:
 - “And Ye Now Therefore Have Sorrow!”
 - Jesus Could Say This:
 - Because He Knew This!
 - He Knew Their Hearts - And:
 - He Cared!
 - Much Like He Said Back In:
 - 16:6 - “But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart!”

- And So - The Bitterness & Grief & Sorrow:
 - That The Disciples Would Face:
 - In "A Little While" - Through The Death & Departure Of Jesus:
 - They Were Already Tasting!
 - But - It Was Soon Going To Get Worse!
 - And Jesus Wanted To Be:
 - Open & Honest With Them:
 - About What It Would Take:
 - To Believe Him & Follow Him!
 - They Would Need To Go Through:
 - The Greatest Period Of Grief:
 - Of Their Lives!
 - And - All This Happened:
 - In Just "A Little While" From When:
 - Jesus Said These Words!
 - As We Will Soon Find:
 - In John - Jesus Would:
 - Suffer & Bleed & Die - And Then Be Buried Away:
 - From Their Sight For Nearly Three Days!
 - And I'm Not Sure:
 - We Could Even Imagine:
 - What Their Grief Must Have Been Like:
 - For Those Days!
 - When - They Did Not & Could Not:
 - See Jesus!
 - But - This Is Not:
 - Where Jesus Wanted To Leave Them!
 - And So - To Help Comfort & Console Them & Us:
 - He Also Told Them About:

2. ***A Period Of Great Gladness:***

- That Would Also Come:
 - In Just "A Little While!"
- And So - Also In 16:20 - Jesus Gives More:
 - Explanation About This Period Of Gladness:
 - When He Says - "Your Sorrow Shall Be Turned Into Joy!"
 - This Is An Amazing Statement!
 - Because - He Does Not Simply Say That:
 - Their Sorrow Will Be:
 - Replaced By Joy!
 - But That - Their Sorrow Will Be:
 - Turned Into Joy!
 - Which Means:
 - "The Very Thing, The Cross, That Would Be To Them First A Cause Of Sorrow Would Later Become A Source Of Joy!" (Leon Morris)
 - Not Just - A Source - But:
 - The Source!
 - And - Jesus Said This:
 - To Bring Further Light & Meaning:
 - To What He Said Back In 16:16:
 - "And Again, A Little While, And Ye Shall See Me!"
 - Though They Will Experience:
 - Great Grief:
 - When He Dies!
 - They Will Experience:
 - Great Gladness & Joy:
 - When He Comes Back To Them:
 - From The Dead!

- And They Will:
 - See Him!
- But Then - In 16:21 - Jesus Also Adds To The:
 - Example Of Their Grief - And:
 - Example Of Their Gladness!
 - Because - What Happens After:
 - A Woman In Labor:
 - Gives Birth?
 - “But as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world!”
 - So - Even Though The Pain She Felt:
 - Was Real & Intense & Almost Unbearable:
 - When The Child Is Finally Born:
 - Her Thoughts Don’t Go Back To The Labor - But To Her Newborn Baby!
 - And - The Height Of Her Joy & Gladness:
 - Is Even Greater Than:
 - The Depths Of Her Pain & Grief!
 - And So It Would Soon Be:
 - For Jesus’ Disciples!
 - In Just “A Little While” - It Will Be Like:
 - Jesus Himself Has Been:
 - Born Again - Because He Will Be Alive:
 - From The Dead!
- And Then - To Show Even More His:
 - Empathy To His Disciples:
 - He Comforts Them Once Again In 16:22:
 - When He Adds - “But I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you!”
 - Now - Before - Jesus Said:
 - 16:16 - “A Little While, And Ye Shall See Me!”
 - But Here - He Changes It Up A Bit:
 - To Say - “But I Will See You Again!”
 - Doesn’t This Show:
 - Jesus Love & Desire:
 - For His Disciples!
 - It Would Have Been One Thing:
 - For His Disciples:
 - To See Him!
 - Because - That Can Even Be Done:
 - From Afar!
 - But - Its Another Thing:
 - For Jesus To Say That:
 - He Will See Them!
 - Because - It Means That:
 - He Will Be Looking For Them Personally - And:
 - He Will Be Looking At Them Directly!
 - And At That Moment:
 - Their Heart - That Was Filled With Grief:
 - Will Rejoice - And Be Filled:
 - With Gladness!
- Because When Jesus Would Raise From The Dead:
 - His Light Would Brighten Their Darkness:
 - And Their Longest Night:
 - Would Be Over - And Would Turn Into:
 - An Eternal Day Of Joy:
 - Because Jesus Is “The Resurrection & The Life!”

Conclusion:

1. I Mentioned Earlier That:
 - In 16:16 - Jesus Provided:
 - A Basic Time-Line Of His Presence:
 - With His Disciples:
 - From The Time Of His Departure From Them Through His Death:
 - When - "In A Little While, And Ye Shall Not See Me!"
 - And - To The Time Of His Return To Them Through His Resurrection:
 - When - "In A Little While, And Ye Shall See Me!"
 - Now - For His Disciples Then:
 - He Knew That They Would Be Going Through:
 - Both Of The Periods:
 - He Described!
 - The Period Of Grief & The Period Of Gladness!
2. But - For Us:
 - What Period Are We Now In:
 - As We Think About The Time-Line:
 - Jesus Gave In This Verse?
 - Are We In:
 - The Period Of:
 - The Disciple's Grief & Sorrow?
 - Sometimes - You Would Think So:
 - The Way We Go Through Our Lives:
 - As Christians Today!
 - Or - Instead - Aren't We In:
 - The Period Of:
 - The Disciple's Gladness & Joy!
 - Because - Even Though:
 - Jesus Did Die & The Disciples:
 - Did Not See Him For A Time!
 - Didn't Jesus Return To Them?
 - So That - His Promises:
 - Might Be Fulfilled?
 - So That - They Might See Him - And:
 - Even Better - He Might See Them?
 - Yes! Absolutely Yes!
 - In John 20:20 - We Find Jesus' Promise Fulfilled:
 - "And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord!"
3. And So Now:
 - We Are Living In The Period:
 - Not Of Grief - But Of Gladness!
 - Not Of Sorrow - But Of Joy!
 - And - The Very Cause Of Grief:
 - The Death Of Christ:
 - Has Become The Very Source Of Joy & Gladness For All Who Believe In Him!
 - Even As It Did For These Same Disciples:
 - When Jesus Returned To His Father:
 - At His Ascension!
 - Not A Time For Sorrow, But For Joy!
 - Luke 24:50-54 - "And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. / And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. / And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: / And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen!"
4. So - Why Aren't We Rejoicing Christians?
 - How Many Times Do We Find This:
 - In The New Testament!

- The Period Of Grief:
 - Is Over - And The Period:
 - Of Gladness Has Begun!
 - So Now - We Can:
 - “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4)
 - Even When We Experience Distress:
 - In The World & By The World!
 - 1 Peter 4:12-13 - “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: / But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy!”
5. But - The Promise That Jesus Made:
- To His Disciples - About:
 - His Resurrection:
 - We Can Apply To His Second Return & Second Coming!
 - Because - In Just “A Little While” More:
 - He Will Come Back:
 - For Us To See Him & For Him To See Us:
 - And To Be With Us!
 - And - If These Promises:
 - Don’t Bring You Joy:
 - What Else Can? What Will?
 - So - This Morning:
 - Live In the Joy:
 - Of Jesus - As The Resurrection & The Life!
 - As Your Resurrection & Your Life!
 - You Do Not Live In:
 - The Period Of Sorrow & Grief!
 - If You Are In Christ:
 - You Live In:
 - The Period Of Joy & Gladness!
 - So - Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian,
Lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs
To Jesus Christ the King!

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com