

Sermon Outlines

The Sufferings of Life

Reading

Job 2:1-10

Why Do The Righteous Suffer?

1) The sorrows and griefs of life:

- a) Sickness of a child or loved one
- b) Satanic opposition working on the mind
- c) Death
- d) Loss of employment
- e) Matrimonial difficulties
- f) Devastation i.e hurricanes destroying ones property
- g) Consider Job

2) Why did God let this choice individual be so afflicted?

- a) To see if God is loved for His own sake not because of what He gives. Why do I love the Lord?
 - i) The Psalmist: "I love the LORD, because He hath heard my voice and my supplications" (Psa. 116:1).
 - ii) John: "We love Him (the Lord), because He first loved us" (1 Jn. 4:19).
 - iii) The love of God is not a because love.
- b) The one who knows the Lord can worship Him in the midst of sorrow and affliction (Job 1:20).
- c) The sorrows and storms of life (disciplines of God) to those who are exercised by them, they will be led into deeper appreciations of the Lord (Heb. 12:11).
- d) The suffering of the righteous is not necessarily due to sin for God's evaluation of Job was "perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil" (Job 1:1).

3) The sufferings of our Lord on the cross

- a) Illustration: Is it fair for an innocent child to suffer for the disobedience of the other, or is it fair for the guilty to go unpunished? No. Then how is it righteous for the innocent, Holy Son of God to suffer for my wrongs and sins? The answer is found in His love for He volunteered to be the curse of divine judgment for me.
- b) Because of Calvary I must never doubt His love but rest in the truths of His word:
 - i) "The Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20).
 - ii) "Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you" (1 Pet. 5:7).
- c) The complexity of the statement, "Yet it pleased them LORD to bruise Him" (Isa. 53:10).
 - i) Is God a sadist who finds pleasure in afflicting another? No.
 - ii) The word "pleased" does not mean sadistic delight, but is better translated "will" as in verse 12, "I will divide". The wording would be better, "Yet it was the will/purpose of God to bruise Him".
- d) I must never lose my confidence in the Lord. Job said:
 - i) "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him" (Job 13:15).
 - ii) "I know that my Redeemer liveth" (Job 19:25).
 - iii) "And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God" (Job 19:26).

4) It is easy to trust the Lord when things are going well but when the storms arise, what then?

- a) When the disciples were in the boat, crossing the sea at the Lord's behest, then the storm came. Could they still have trusted Him? (Jn. 6:16-21)
- b) When Joseph was cast into the prison was it easy to have said, "All things work together for good" (Rom. 8:28). It was a lesson learned by Joseph (Gen. 39:20), Daniel (Dan. 6:16-28), and the three Hebrew servants (Dan. 3:16-30).
- c) When Paul was in the Roman jail or shipwrecked, was it easy to trust God? (2 Cor. 11:24-27)
- d) When Abraham put his only son on the altar, was it easy to lift the knife to kill him? (Gen. 22:10)

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- e) It is a lesson we all learn in the christian pathway. We must afterward thank God for the dark experiences for in them we learn some aspect of the wonder of God.

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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