

The Oologah Informer

January 10th, 2016

Human Pain & Suffering (Part 2) By Chuck Northrop

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Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

Satan's Plan to wreck the world
– Part 6 "Pain & Suffering".
(Ecc 4:1-3)

PM Sermon:

Obadiah

Sunday AM Bible Class:

Ecclesiastes – D. Jackson

Wednesday Bible Class:

The Book of Acts – V. Smith

In SEARCH of the Lord's Way

On Channel 6-2 Sundays @ 7:30 am

The Truth in Love on Channel 47

Sundays @ 8am

Oologah Internet Radio Programs

Vance' Program on Wednesdays
@ 6:15pm & Thursdays @ 6:15am

LIVE broadcast on Mondays @ 5pm

Visit www.tgrn.org to listen or visit
www.oologahradio.org for more info.

Temptations From Satan

The book of Job helps us to understand the universal question of human pain and suffering. Job is described as "blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil" (Job 1:1). These qualities were reiterated by God in verse 8 showing that they were not just man's opinions about Job but also God's. Satan, the adversary, disputes with God over the righteousness of Job. Satan claims that Job fears God because of God's protection and that if God would allow afflictions to come upon Job, Job would curse God.

As a result, God allowed Satan to afflict Job, but Job held true to his integrity. Job's reaction was threefold. His first reaction was sorrow. His second reaction was that "he fell to the ground and worshiped" God (Job 1:20). And his third reaction was that he understood life which is seen in his statement, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21).

However, defeated Satan was not satisfied. So Satan again contends with God over the righteousness of Job and God notes that even though Job suffered "without cause" "still he holds fast to his integrity" (Job 2:3). Satan further accuses God of protecting Job but this time from personal injury. Again God allows Satan to afflict Job but limits Satan in that Satan is not allowed to kill Job. Sadly, Job is afflicted by a dreadful disease from head to foot. Even his wife implores him to "Curse God and die!" (Job 2:9). Yet, faithful Job maintains his integrity and later said, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him" (Job 13:15). From the book of Job, we see that human pain and suffering does not always come as a result of sin.

Afflictions in life are at times the result of godly living as was the case of Job. Also, from the example of Job, we learn the proper reaction to pain and suffering — which is that we ought to maintain our faithfulness to God. Thus, we see that God allows Satan to tempt us in order to test our integrity and our faithfulness to Him. Even with temptation, we can be assured that God cares for us. 1 Corinthians 10:13 is a source of great encouragement. Paul wrote, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

Further we see from the pages of the New Testament that temptations or trials can help us grow. James declares that a man is blessed when he endures temptation (James 1:12). The key is endurance, patience, and perseverance. When we are steadfast and endure temptation, then we grow in our maturity. For this reason, James instructs, "count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing" (James 1:2-4). Concerning these "various trials," Peter declared, "that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1Peter 1:6-7). Therefore, the trials of our faith helps us to grow to maturity. Because of this reason, Peter exhorted, "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy" (1Peter 4:12-13).

The Mystery of Life

God has not revealed all things to man. There are some things that are a mystery to man and will remain a mystery to man. Moses declared, "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law" (Deuteronomy 29:29). We know that God has "given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue" (2Peter 1:3). Since there are those things that only God knows, we must rely upon God. The evidence says that God will only do those things that are just and right. God's love is the evidence. God's love is demonstrated by His creation, by His provisions, and by His sending His only begotten Son into this world as a sacrifice for sin. God will only do that which is right!

From reading the book of Job, we know why Job suffered afflictions, but notice that God did not reveal it unto Job. God at the end of the book of Job asked Job some specific rhetorical questions concerning the nature of deity, where the world came from, and who is in control of the universe. By this means, God reminded Job that God was in control and that Job needed to trust in Him.

When God reveals His mystery, man cannot but help to be in awe of it. Paul proclaimed, "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!" (Romans 11:33).