

**Job 10: 13-22; “Remember Christ in Your Trial”, Sermon # 20 in the series entitled –
“Remember to Magnify His Work”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall
on August 1st, 2021, in the Afternoon Worship.**

Once again, we take up the sufferings of Job in order to understand better all that Christ would do for him, and for us, by His sufferings at the cross. It is Christ’s sufferings which undergird all of our sufferings as Christians; all that we will suffer as Christians in living our life for God. It is Christ’s grace which gives us the strength to bear up under sufferings and even to rejoice and be glad. But let us see that Job had come to the place where he just wanted God to leave him alone, he says in verse 20, so that he might take a little comfort and then die. So, since we have come here to observe the Lord’s Supper, and to remember Christ at this time, I would like to show you God’s thoughts concerning Job’s negative thoughts. All of these points that I will make are meant to encourage you, the Christian, when you are at your lowest point.

1st of all – When you feel hopeless in your trials, remember that God acquits you of your iniquity.

Verse 13 says – “And these things You have hidden in Your heart; I know that this was with You: If I sin, then You mark me, and will not acquit me of my iniquity.” “If I am wicked, woe to me; even if I am righteous, I cannot lift up my head.” “I am full of disgrace; see my misery.” Now, these are words which Job spoke, He spoke directly to God in prayer. He was, as all of us should be able to see, a very spiritually discerning man. He knew that God knew all about what he was going through; that he had lost all of his children, his possessions, and the approval of his wife and friends. He knew that God knew all about his sore boils that were all over his body. And he knew that the grief and pain that he was experiencing, and which were continuing on, were all perfectly known by God.

But the conclusions that Job was drawing about God’s omniscience were not good. He says that God was marking him, and that he would not acquit him of his iniquity. The word, “mark” should lead us in our minds to Psalm 130, verses 1-4 where it says – “Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord; Lord hear my voice!” “Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.” “If you, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?” “But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared.” John Owen in his treatise on Psalm 130 says this – “The word “mark” in the Hebrew means “to observe and keep as in safe custody; to keep, preserve, and watch diligently; so to remark and observe, as to retain that which is observed, to ponder it, and lay it up in the heart.”

He says – “The marking of iniquities, then, here intended, is God’s, so far considering and observing of them, as to reserve them for punishment and vengeance.” “In opposition unto this marking, he is said not to see sin, to overlook it, to cover it, or remember it no more; that is, to forgive it, as the next verse declares.” “I need not show,” he says, “that God so far marks all sins in all persons as to see them, know them, disallow them, and to be displeased with them.” “This cannot be denied without taking away of all grounds of fear and worship.” “To deny it is all one as to deny the very being of God; deny His holiness and righteousness, and you deny His existence.” (Vol. 6 of his Works, P. 359, 360)

This is what Job indeed did know; that even though he was a blameless man, at points he knew that he was still a man who sinned. He was not denying that he had any sins. He was not denying that he, as a blameless man, would not have iniquities which God could mark. He is declaring that God is just to do so, and he fears Him with a holy fear. But His view of God’s not acquitting him in relation to his present state of mind and heart was not correct. He was drawing the wrong conclusion about what God was doing, as he Job was going through this trial. He thought that God was marking him so as not to acquit him as he was going through this trial. He says (verse 15) –

“If I am wicked, woe to me; even if I am righteous I cannot lift up my head.” “I am full of disgrace (I am full of confusion, the King James says); see my misery!”

The word “acquit” according to Webster’s 1828 Dictionary means – “to remit, or forgive, or remove”. It means – “To set free; to release or discharge from an obligation, accusation, guilt, censure, suspicion, or whatever lies upon a person as a charge or duty; as, the jury acquitted the prisoner.” That, I believe, is what Job is speaking of here. Because of his awful present circumstances, he did not feel that God was forgiving his sins at all. He was disgraced in the sight of his friends, and he was full of misery in his present experience. Sometimes a Christian can be brought to this place, where because of terrible trials, they begin to doubt that they have been or are being forgiven by God of their sins. For they are not being released from the trial.

It is extremely important at such times, that we as Christians remember that through Jesus Christ there is forgiveness with God that He may be feared. It is not we ourselves and our own righteousness which acquits us from any sin, or brings us out of any trial. Each one of us has indwelling remaining corruption in our hearts. We may be tempted to many different sins and even fall to them at critical points. Especially unbelief and thinking hard about God; these not being the least of our sins. This was what was happening to Job. What should he have done? Verses 5 and 6 of Psalm 130 tell us – “I wait for the Lord, my soul waits.” “And in His word do I hope.” “My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning – Yes, more than those who watch for the morning.”

Psalm 62, verses 1 and 2 as well. “Truly my soul silently waits for God; from Him comes my salvation.” “He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved.” The answer in the midst of great trials is not to mistrust God, that He will not forgive you or release you from the trial. It is to wait silently for Him to answer your prayers and deliver you. And while you wait, you can remember verses 5-8 of that same Psalm. “My soul, wait silently for God alone.” “For my expectation is from Him.” “He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved.” “In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.”

2nd – When Satan attacks you as a lion, remember that the Lion of Judah has prevailed over him. (verses 16 and 17)

Verse 16 says – “If my head is exalted, You hunt me like a fierce lion, and again You show Yourself awesome against me.” “You renew Your witnesses against me, and increase Your indignation toward me; changes and war are ever with me.” (The New American Standard says – “Hardship after hardship is with me.”) (The ESV says – “You renew your witnesses against me and increase your vexation toward me; you bring fresh troops against me.”) These fresh troops that God was supposedly bringing against Job were the awful and overwhelming sense of his grief and pain which kept coming to his hurting mind and heart because of the accusations of his friends, but most of all, because He thought God was coming against him as a lion.

When Job says, “if my head is exalted”, he means if he is encouraged to think that his trial would end, then immediately he thought that God would hunt him like a fierce lion devouring him with his earthly judgments against him. Job believed that God was renewing his witnesses against him and increasing his vexation. God was showing Himself awesome against him. That is how he perceived it. But here again he was wrong. It was not God coming against him, it was Satan who was coming against him. And we must understand that Satan likes to attempt to deceive Christians greatly in this regard. He attacks the Christian and then tries to make it appear that it is God who is coming against them; that it is God who is indignant against them. It is therefore important that we understand who was the real one acting as a lion in this case; it was Satan.

Turn with me over to 1st Peter 5, verses 8-10. “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” “Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” “But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered

a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.” The reason that we must be sober and vigilant is because of our adversary the Devil. We have to be serious and watchful in relation to his temptations and his attacks. He is our adversary. He is opposed to you as a Christian, being seen by God and other men, as just and holy, faithful and true.

He will test to prove your character. He desires to sift you like wheat, like he did with Peter on the night on which Jesus was betrayed. He wants to see what makes you a true Christian or will prove you to be false. He tests to see if he can get you to fall spiritually so that he can mock and accuse you in the very presence of God. He is the one Peter says, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. By attempting to devour Christians, Peter means that he will try to swallow you up in attempting to destroy your body, and to terrify and oppress your soul, leading to your great discouragement and the temptation to go along with his wicked suggestions and insinuations.

We have seen that this was what he was trying to do with Job. Peter says that all Christians will suffer under his attacks at some points in their walk with God. You are to resist him, steadfast in your faith. When you are tempted by Satan to some sin or God-dishonoring act, remember the words of Jesus to Peter in Luke 22: 31 and 32 – “Simon, Simon!” “Indeed, Satan has asked for, that he may sift you as wheat.” “But I have prayed for you that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.” And what was Satan tempting Peter to do at that time? He was seeking to get Peter to believe that he had the strength and the wisdom in himself to follow Christ to the cross and to defend Him unto his own death.

He thought that his love for Christ and his devotion to Christ were great enough that could even die with Christ. For it says there in Luke 22: 33 that he said – “Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death.” “Then Jesus said – “I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me.” This, Peter did not believe until it was proved to him in the courtyard of the high priest a little later. This is what Satan does with many Christians. He tries to get them to think that they are strong enough in themselves to live the Christian life, to do spiritual battle with the Devil and to overcome him by their own strong reasoning, and because they think that they have spiritual and physical strength in themselves apart from Christ. Peter did have to have this proved to him, that he did not.

The way that you resist him is to be sober and vigilant, watchful for his attacks. You resist him by declaring to him your faith in Christ; that He is Your Savior, that He is your King, that He is your Strength and your song and your victory in the spiritual battle. That He will allow you to pick up the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God and to defend yourself against Him by showing Him your faith in what Christ has done for you, what He is doing and will continue to do for you by His grace. Satan is going to roar, and he will do everything that he can to spiritually intimidate you. But you must realize that this is why Christ had to face Satan in battle, and go to the cross. It was so that you might be able to endure your sufferings at Satan’s wicked hands and still overcome him. Only Christ can help you to do this. Listen to Revelation chapter 5, verses 1-7. “Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals.” “And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?’” “And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.” “And one of the elders said to me, ‘Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.’”

“And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.” “And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne.” “And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of

incense, which are the prayers of the saints.” “And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.’”

Now, what was this scroll that is being mentioned here? It is the scroll of the history of the forward progress of Christ’s kingdom in Church History. And how does it advance? If we were to take the time to read on further, in chapter 6, we would see that the Church advances to conquer the oppositions of Satan, because of Christ being both the Lion and the Lamb. He was the Lion of the tribe of Judah who cast out Satan when He went to the cross. And the way that He overcame him on our behalf was by His becoming the Lamb who was slain there at the cross. Because of His overcoming the Devil, we too can overcome him, not in our own strength, or by our own wisdom, but by Christ’s blood and His righteousness. This is what we will celebrate now in the Supper.

3rd – Even when you are in the valley of the shadow of death, Christ is with you.
(verses 18-22)

“Why then have You brought me out of the womb?” “Oh, that I had perished and no eye had seen me!” “I would have been as though I had not been.” “I would have been carried from the womb to the grave. Are not my days few? Cease! Leave me alone, that I may take a little comfort, Before I go to the place from which I shall not return, To the land of darkness and the shadow of death, A land as dark as darkness itself, As the shadow of death, without any order, Where even the light is like darkness.” Job is so overwhelmed with doubt of God’s help to him that he wishes that he had never been born. He wishes that his life had never been; that he had been carried from the womb to the grave.

He now prays to God, that since his days, he thought, were to be so few, he told God to cease afflicting him, and leave him alone. He says that he wanted to take a little comfort before he went to the place from he would not return; that is, to the house of death. He speaks of it as a land of darkness, as the shadow of death, without any order; where even the light is like darkness. Job was thinking of death as it is to the body. The body is separated from the soul and is place in the grave where it is dark as dark can be. There is no order apparent to us, to death. It takes one person in their youth and another in their old age. But all must go there. The reason that Job is looking at death from the standpoint of his body and darkness is because he so discouraged with what he saw God doing to him.

If he only could think of his life in terms of the way it is written in Proverbs 4: 18 – “The path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter until the full day; that is until the day of their death where the soul enters the realms of endless day, and better and brighter light than we ever see while we walk upon this earth. What should Job have done? He needed to hear the word of Isaiah 50, verse 10 – “Who among you fears the Lord?” “Who obeys the voice of His Servant?” “Who walks in darkness and has no light?” “Let him trust in the name of the Lord and rely upon his God.” That’s what Job needed to do.

He lived before David wrote the words of Psalm 23. But he needed to know what it says there in verse 4 – “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff they comfort me.” He needed to know the reality of that spiritual truth; that even though he walked in darkness at that time of his experience, even in the valley of the shadow of death, that he need fear no evil, for Christ the Good Shepherd of the Sheep was right there with him, even though he could sense no light, only darkness in his soul. Brethren, as we partake of the Supper now, will you not remember this truth; that the just shall live by their faith. You may not be able to feel God’s presence, His love, His undergirding strength in the time of your trial, but by faith, know that it is there. And it is there because Christ Himself died for this, that He might be there.

