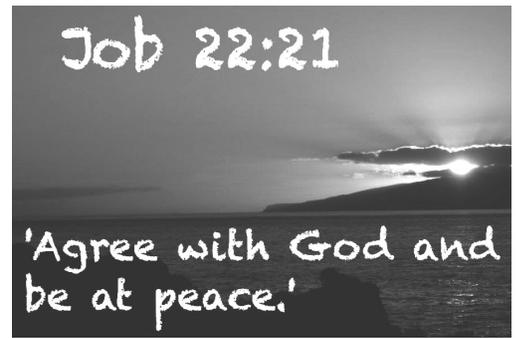


THE BOOK OF JOB –

“The Suffering and Consolation of the Christian”

Date: 2-18-18 Lesson: 12 Text: Chapters 22,23

Theme: “Agree with God, and be at peace”



Text: (Job 22:1-30) Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said: (2) "Can a man be profitable **to God**? Surely he who is wise is profitable to himself. (3) Is it any pleasure to **the Almighty** if you are in the right, or is it gain to him if you make your ways blameless? (4) Is it for your fear of him that he reproves you and enters into judgment with you? (5) Is not your evil abundant? There is no end to your iniquities. (6) For you have exacted pledges of your brothers for nothing and stripped the naked of their clothing. (7) You have given no water to the weary to drink, and you have withheld bread from the hungry.

(8) The man with power possessed the land, and the favored man lived in it. (9) You have sent widows away empty, and the arms of the fatherless were crushed. (10) Therefore snares are all around you, and sudden terror overwhelms you, (11) or darkness, so that you cannot see, and a flood of water covers you. (12) "Is not **God high in the heavens**? See the highest stars, how lofty they are! (13) But you say, 'What does **God** know? Can he judge through the deep darkness? (14) Thick clouds veil him, so that he does not see, and he walks on the vault of heaven.'

(15) Will you keep to the old way that wicked men have trod? (16) They were snatched away before their time; their foundation was washed away. (17) They said to **God**, 'Depart from us,' and 'What **can the Almighty** do to us?' (18) Yet he filled their houses with good things-- but the counsel of the wicked is far from me. (19) The righteous see it and are glad; the innocent one mocks at them, (20) saying, 'Surely our adversaries are cut off, and what they left the fire has consumed.'

(21) "Agree with **God**, and be at peace; thereby good will come to you. (22) Receive instruction from **his mouth**, and lay up **his words** in your heart. (23) If you return to **the Almighty** you will be built up; if you remove injustice far from your tents, (24) if you lay gold in the dust, and gold of Ophir among the stones of the torrent bed, (25) then **the Almighty** will be your gold and your precious silver. (26) For then you will delight yourself in **the Almighty** and lift up your face to **God**. (27) You will make your prayer to him, and **he will hear you**, and you will pay your vows. (28) You will decide on a matter, and it will be established for you, and light will shine on your ways. (29) For when they are humbled you say, 'It is because of pride'; but **he saves the lowly**. (30) He delivers even the one who is not innocent, who will be delivered through the cleanness of your hands."

(Job 23:1-17) Then Job answered and said: (2) "Today also my complaint is bitter; my hand is heavy on account of my groaning. (3) Oh, that I knew where I might find **him**, that I might come even to **his seat**! (4) I would lay my case before **him** and fill my mouth with arguments. (5) I would know what he would answer me and understand what he would say to me. (6) Would he contend with me in **the greatness of his power**? No; he would pay attention to me. (7) There an upright man could argue with him, and I would be acquitted forever by **my judge**.

(8) "Behold, I go forward, but **he is not there**, and backward, but I do not perceive him; (9) on the left hand when he is working, **I do not behold him**; he turns to the right hand, but **I do not see him**. (10) But he knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold. (11) My foot has held fast to **his steps**; I have kept **his way** and have not turned aside. (12) I have not departed from **the commandment of his lips**; I have treasured **the words of his mouth** more than my portion of food.

(13) But **he is unchangeable**, and who can turn him back? What he desires, that he does. (14) For he will complete what he appoints for me, and many such things are in his mind. (15) Therefore I am terrified at **his presence**; when I consider, I am in dread of him. (16) **God** has made my heart faint; **the Almighty** has terrified me; (17) yet I am not silenced because of the darkness, nor because thick darkness covers my face.

STUDY NOTES:

1. Eliphaz is making another vain attempt to convince Job that the woes he is experiencing are because of wicked actions on his part – even insinuating that Job mistreated widows and orphans.

2. Despite Eliphaz' poor advice, some of the things he says are true nonetheless:

(21) Agree with **God**, and be at peace; thereby good will come to you.

(Ps 34:8-10; Is 26:3,12; Jer 9:24; Rom 5:1; 1 Pet 5:6)

(22) Receive instruction from **his mouth**, and lay up **his words** in your heart. (Dt 8:3; Ps 37:31; Prov 2:6)

(23) If you return to **the Almighty** you will be built up; (Is 31:6; 44:22; Ezek 18:32; Mal 3:7; Ac 20:32)

(26) For then you will delight yourself in **the Almighty** and lift up your face to **God**.

(Ps 2:8; 16:6; 100:1; Is 58:14)

(27) You will make your prayer to him, and **he will hear you** (Ps 86:7; Is 30:19)

(29) For when they are humbled you say, 'It is because of pride'; but **he saves the lowly**.

(Ps 18:27; Mt 23:12)

3. Chapter 23 shows the hiddenness of God, who hides himself in suffering, so we will cling to him even though we cannot see him, and we are perplexed as to why so much evil and distress comes upon us.

“the greatness of his power - my judge - but he is not there - I do not behold him

- I do not see him or his steps the words of his mouth

- he is unchangeable - his presence - God - the Almighty”

Note: Jesus, in the carrying of the cross, shows us that the truly Christian life is: “cross-bearing.”

(Mt 4:4; Jn 4:32-34; 2 Cor 5:11; 6:1-10; 12:7-10; 1 Th 3:3; 1 Pet 4:12; Rev 6:16)

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“But these things must be borne, and we must conclude that God is the One who is hidden. This is His peculiar property. He is really hidden, and yet He is not hidden, for the flesh prevents us from being able to look at Him. It murmurs, is sorrowful, rages, is angry, and cries: “I am most wretched, forlorn, and despised.”

It is certainly true that the pastors of the church together with the godly do not have the protection of princes, or kings, nor even the patronage of the citizens or peasants, which is the church's due. The patronage which it already has is often taken away, so much are the pastors and the godly exposed to plunderings and wrongs of every kind. So it seems that God is completely forsaking us and casting us away, because He is hidden to us and we are hidden along with Him. But in faith, in the Word, and in the sacraments He is revealed and seen.

Reason, wisdom, righteousness of the flesh, and this light of the sun God regards as dark and misty, but here the Word comes forward like a little flame shining in the midst of darkness and scattering its rays through its doctrine and the sacraments; these rays God orders to be apprehended. If we embrace them, God is no longer hidden to us in the spirit but only in the flesh.”

LIFE APPLICATION:

What does it mean to agree with **God**, and be at peace; thereby good will come to you?

This the power of the cross

Christ became sin for us
He took the blame and bore the
wrath
We stand forgiven at the cross
What a love, what a cost
We stand forgiven
at the Cross

(Keith Getty & Stuart Townend)

