

THE BOOK OF JOB –

"The Suffering and Consolation of the Christian"

Date: 3-11-18 Lesson: 15 Text: Chapters 28,29

Theme:

"Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom"

Text:

(Job 28:1-28)

"Surely there is a mine for silver, and a place for gold that they refine. (2) Iron is taken out of the earth, and copper is smelted from the ore. (3) Man puts an end to darkness and searches out to the farthest limit the ore in gloom and deep darkness. (4) He opens shafts in a valley away from where anyone lives; they are forgotten by travelers; they hang in the air, far away from mankind; they swing to and fro. (5) As for the earth, out of it comes bread, but underneath it is turned up as by fire. (6) Its stones are the place of sapphires, and it has dust of gold.

(7) "That path no bird of prey knows, and the falcon's eye has not seen it. (8) The proud beasts have not trodden it; the lion has not passed over it. (9) "Man puts his hand to the flinty rock and overturns mountains by the roots. (10) He cuts out channels in the rocks, and his eye sees every precious thing. (11) He dams up the streams so that they do not trickle, and the thing that is hidden he brings out to light. (12) "But where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?

(13) Man does not know its worth, and it is not found in the land of the living. (14) The deep says, 'It is not in me,' and the sea says, 'It is not with me.' (15) It cannot be bought for gold, and silver cannot be weighed as its price. (16) It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir, in precious onyx or sapphire. (17) Gold and glass cannot equal it, nor can it be exchanged for jewels of fine gold. (18) No mention shall be made of coral or of crystal; the price of wisdom is above pearls. (19) The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it, nor can it be valued in pure gold.

(20) "From where, then, does wisdom come? And where is the place of understanding? (21) It is hidden from the eyes of all living and concealed from the birds of the air. (22) Abaddon and Death say, 'We have heard a rumor of it with our ears.' (23) "**God understands the way to it, and he knows its place.** (24) **For he looks to the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens.** (25) **When he gave to the wind its weight and apportioned the waters by measure,** (26) **when he made a decree for the rain and a way for the lightning of the thunder,** (27) **then he saw it and declared it;** he established it, and searched it out. (28) And he said to man, '**Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.**'"

(Job 29:1-25)

And Job again took up his discourse, and said: (2) "Oh, that I were as in the months of old, as in the days when God watched over me, (3) when his lamp shone upon my head, and by his light I walked through darkness, (4) as I was in my prime, when the friendship of God was upon my tent, (5) when the Almighty was yet with me, when my children were all around me, (6) when my steps were washed with butter, and the rock poured out for me streams of oil! (7) When I went out to the gate of the city, when I prepared my seat in the square, (8) the young men saw me and withdrew, and the aged rose and stood; (9) the princes refrained from talking and laid their hand on their mouth; (10) the voice of the nobles was hushed, and their tongue stuck to the roof of their mouth.

(11) When the ear heard, it called me blessed, and when the eye saw, it approved, (12) because I delivered the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to help him. (13) The blessing of him who was about to perish came upon me, and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. (14) I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; my justice was like a robe and a turban. (15) I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame. (16) I was a father to the needy, and I searched out the cause of him whom I did not know. (17) I broke the fangs of the unrighteous and made him drop his prey from his teeth.

(18) Then I thought, 'I shall die in my nest, and I shall multiply my days as the sand, (19) my roots spread out to the waters, with the dew all night on my branches, (20) my glory fresh with me, and my bow ever new in my hand.' (21) "Men listened to me and waited and kept silence for my counsel. (22) After I spoke they did not speak again, and my word dropped upon them. (23) They waited for me as for the rain, and they opened their mouths as for the spring rain. (24) I smiled on them when they had no confidence, and the light of my face they did not cast down. (25) I chose their way and sat as chief, and I lived like a king among his troops, like one who comforts mourners.

*And to man He said,
"Behold, the fear of the
Lord, that is wisdom;
And to depart from evil
is understanding."*

STUDY NOTES:

1. Chapter 28:

- God understands the way to it, and he knows its place.
- For he looks to the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens.
- When he gave to the wind its weight and apportioned the waters by measure,
- When he made a decree for the rain and a way for the lightning of the thunder,
- He said to man, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.'"

(Gen 22:12; 42:18; Ex 18:21;

Ps 11:5; 66:16; 97:10; 111:10;

Prov 1:7; 3:7; 8:13; 9:10; Eccl 8:12; 12:13; Is 11:2;

Lk 23:40; Ac 9:31; 13:16,26; Rom 3:18; 1 Cor 1:30; 2 Cor 5:11; 7:1; 1 Pet 2:17; Rev 14:7)

2. Chapter 29:

- when his lamp shone upon my head,
- by his light I walked through darkness,
- when the friendship of God was upon my tent,

(Gen. chapter 18 – The Lord as a man visiting Abraham in his tent;

Jesus as the tent of God's presence – our bodies as God's tents for us: 2 Cor 5:1-4; Heb 8:1-5; 9:11-14)

- when the Almighty was yet with me,

LUTHER'S WORKS - Vol. 51, pp. 138–139 – The Fear of the Lord God

"[The First Commandment] 'You shall have no other gods before me.' This is a commandment which gives all the doctors trouble to understand. But it should be taught to the children just as it stands in the words, "I am your God," or, "You shall have no other gods before me." Anybody can learn this, no matter how ignorant he may be. But if you won't learn it, then you shall be of the devil. But what does this mean: not to have any other gods or "I am your God"? To have God is to fear God and trust him. I will say it as crudely as I can: He who fears God and trusts him is keeping this commandment, but he who fears something else and trusts it is transgressing.

This is the way the prophets preached and explained the first commandment. And, taking it all in all, there is nothing to be found in it except that we must fear God and trust him. The Psalm [147:11] sums up the first commandment in one verse: "The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love." "Those who fear him" are those who keep the first commandment, which is to fear God and trust him. For he who fears God and trusts him has no other god.

From this there follows the greatest wisdom. One who fears something else and trusts it makes of it a god. That is why all sorcerers transgress this first commandment; they neither trust God nor fear him. You see, then, what faith is and what idolatry is. If you fear the prince more than God, then the prince is your god. If you trust your wife or money more than God, then these are your god. But God is held not in the hand but in the heart. If you fear him and trust him then you need fear no one and trust no one except God. Therefore the first commandment claims the two parts of your heart: fear God and trust him...

This you will learn when you have matured; you will be more learned than the whole world. You will know this: I should fear and trust none but God. If I do this I have the one God."

LIFE APPLICATION:

God has said to us,

"Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom,
and to turn away from evil is understanding."

How do we attain this for ourselves?