

THE BOOK OF JOB –

“The Suffering and Consolation of the Christian”

Date: 12-17-17 Lesson: 6 Text: Chapters 10,11

Theme: “You have granted me life and steadfast love, and your care has preserved my spirit”

Text:

(Job 10:1-22)

Job: "I loathe my life; I will give free utterance to my complaint; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul. (2) I will say to **God**, Do not condemn me; let me know why you contend against me. (3) Does it seem good to you to oppress, to despise **the work of your hands** and favor the designs of the wicked? (4) Have you eyes of flesh? Do you see as man sees? (5) Are your days as the days of man, or your years as a man's years, (6) that you seek out my iniquity and search for my sin, (7) although you know that I am not guilty, and there is none to deliver out of **your hand**?

(8) **Your hands** fashioned and made me, and now you have destroyed me altogether. (9) Remember that you have made me like clay; and will you return me to the dust? (10) Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese? (11) You clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews. (12) **You have granted me life and steadfast love, and your care has preserved my spirit.** (13) Yet these things you hid in your heart; I know that this was **your purpose**.

(14) If I sin, you watch me and do not acquit me of my iniquity. (15) If I am guilty, woe to me! If I am in the right, I cannot lift up my head, for I am filled with disgrace and look on my affliction. (16) And were my head lifted up, you would hunt me like a lion and again work wonders against me. (17) You renew your witnesses against me and increase **your vexation** toward me; you bring fresh troops against me.

(18) "Why did you bring me out from the womb? Would that I had died before any eye had seen me (19) and were as though I had not been, carried from the womb to the grave. (20) Are not my days few? Then cease, and leave me alone, that I may find a little cheer (21) before I go--and I shall not return-- to the land of darkness and deep shadow, (22) the land of gloom like thick darkness, like deep shadow without any order, where light is as thick darkness."

(Job 11:1-20)

Then **Zophar the Naamathite** answered and said: (2) "Should a multitude of words go unanswered, and a man full of talk be judged right? (3) Should your babble silence men, and when you mock, shall no one shame you? (4) For you say, 'My doctrine is pure, and I am clean in God's eyes.' (5) But oh, that **God** would speak and open his lips to you, (6) and that he would tell you **the secrets of wisdom!** For **he is manifold in understanding**. Know then that **God** exacts of you less than your guilt deserves.

(7) "Can you find out **the deep things of God**? Can you find out **the** limit of the Almighty? (8) **It is higher than heaven**--what can you do? **Deeper than Sheol**--what can you know? (9) Its **measure is longer** than the earth and broader than the sea. (10) If he passes through and imprisons and summons the court, who can turn him back? (11) For he knows worthless men; when he sees iniquity, will he not consider it?

(12) But a stupid man will get understanding when a wild donkey's colt is born a man! (13) "If you prepare your heart, you will stretch out your hands toward him. (14) If iniquity is in your hand, put it far away, and let not injustice dwell in your tents. (15) Surely then you will lift up your face without blemish; you will be secure and will not fear.

(16) You will forget your misery; you will remember it as waters that have passed away. (17) And your life will be brighter than the noonday; its darkness will be like the morning. (18) And you will feel secure, because there is hope; you will look around and take your rest in security. (19) You will lie down, and none will make you afraid; many will court your favor. (20) But the eyes of the wicked will fail; all way of escape will be lost to them, and their hope is to breathe their last."

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STUDY NOTES:

1. In **10:1-7**, “Such words are a reminder that the sickroom is not the place to argue theology; in times of severe suffering, people may say things that require a response of love and understanding.” **CSSB p. 744.**
2. In **10:8-11** we have a poem describing being created in the womb by the hand of God.
(**Gen 2:7; Ps. 103:14; 119:73; 139:13-16; Is 29:16**)
3. In **10:21-22** the place of no return, a land of gloom and deep shadows like the netherworld.
Times of darkness and pessimism makes us feel like we are in the land of nothingness.
4. In **chapter 11**, Zophar, like Eliphaz and Bildad, claims that Job’s sins have caused his suffering.
Though he does not show much compassion for Job, much of what he says is true.
We cannot fathom the mysteries of God or probe the limits of the Almighty.
5. In **11:7-9**, " The deep things of God... the limit of the Almighty...it is higher than heaven...
deeper than Sheol- ...its measure is longer than the earth and broader than the sea."
The reality is that God’s wisdom is way beyond our understanding:
(**Ps 57:10; 139:8; 145:3; Eccl 3:11; 8:17; Is 40:26; 55:9; Rom 11:33; Eph 3:18-20**)
6. To stretch out one’s hands to God is to beseech him for help.
(**Ex 9:29; Ps. 44:20; 88:9; 143:6; Prov 1:24; Lam 1:17**)
7. In **10:12** “You have granted me life and steadfast love, and your care has preserved my spirit.”
(**Gen 39:21; Ex 15:13; Num 14:18; Ps 21:7; Is 63:7; Neh 1:5; Micah 7:18; Dan 5:23; Acts 17:28; Heb 6:19,20**)

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16. *For Thy mercy is kind...*the Lord bewailed above all when He wept over Jerusalem and said (Luke 19:42): “If you had known even now, in this your day, what makes for your peace; but now it is hidden from your eyes.” Thus if we, too, would know the things that make for our peace, namely, since they are worse than every affliction, we would without doubt act differently...

But since peace and security do not let us see such things, let us labor and show what we ought to consider, that we may see many miseries, so that thus we may magnify and make propitious the mercy of the Lord. For it is not possible to make the mercy of God large and good, unless a person first makes his miseries large and evil or recognizes them to be such. To make God’s mercy great is not, as is commonly supposed, to think that God considers sins as small or that He does not punish them. Indeed, this especially means to reduce mercy...

This is what the apostle has forbidden, that we should please ourselves in even one point (Rom. 15:1), but that we should above all and in all things be displeased and **thus with Job fear all our works (Job 9:28)**. For he who is pleased with himself cannot stand in the fear of God and be without presumption. But what is worse than being without fear? Therefore every concern must be to strive for the supreme displeasure with ourselves, even in our good things.”

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. How has the Lord granted you life and steadfast love?

2. When has his care preserved your spirit?