

September 14, 1997 am and pm

Job Was a Perfect Man, and You Can Be, Too!

Job 1

1. Job's Characteristics (vs. 1-6)
 - a. character (v. 1)
 - 1) perfect **complete in all relationships**
mature **personal – God, 2) family, 3) church, 4) business, 5) community**
 - 2) upright **straight, consistently did right**
 - 3) feared God **lived life from God's point of view**
 - 4) eschewed (evil) **put off, beheaded, separated from**
Redemption is the scarlet thread, separation is the golden thread that runs through the Bible.
 - b. family (v. 2) **a top priority**
 - c. work (v. 3) **well-managed, money**
 - d. children (v. 4) **well-trained, didn't leave to wife**
 - e. spiritual leadership (v. 5) **didn't leave to his wife**
2. God's Ways and Satan's Ways (vs. 7-12)
 - a. The Lord is King **sovereign (in control), notices God-fearing person, puts up hedges, just, willing to let His dearest suffer**
 - b. Satan is **an adversary, accuser; obedient, confident, sly**
 - c. Satan's hypothesis (statement to be proved): **Job serves God only for personal gain (Doth Job serve God for naught? ((v. 9)**

Job's First Test and Results

1. Four Calamities (vs. 13-19)
 - a. oxen and asses plundered and servants slain by Sabceans
 - b. fire of God burned up sheep and servants
 - c. camels plundered and servants slain by Chaldeons
 - d. wilderness wind collapsed house and killed children
2. Job's Response (vs. 20-22)
 - a. (v. 20) **groaned and worshipped**
 - b. (v. 21) **drank his cup, accepted his lot, and blessed**
 - c. (v. 22) **did not sin nor charge God foolishly**

Conclusion of Experiment

1. **God is always vindicated (shown to be right)**
2. **The devil always loses.**
3. **The same Lord rules today, and you can be manly by choice Pro. 1:29), and with His help (Heb. 13:20,21). Be a human-bein ➡ becoming!**

October 5, 1997

The Answer to All You Questions

Job 1:8,9; 2:6,10; 3:1,2,11,20

The Why Questions from Last Week

Why did I not from the womb (3:11)?

Why is life given to him that is in misery (3:20)?

Why did God give Satan permission to afflict Job (_____)?

Why was Job written (_____)?

Why do you need this message (_____)?

The Two Great Truths of Our Existence

1. We are alive (and saved) for _____ sake – not ours (Rev. 4:11; Titus 2:14)!
(What does it matter what happens to us?)
2. We are made for _____ with Him, a _____
relation with God from which comes peace, direction, desire and ability to
study and practice, conviction of where we fall short, and all kinds of blessing!
This position is found as we learn to _____ on Him, and it is the
position of abiding in Christ, of being in the light, and of experiencing the
ultimate delight.

May 25, 1997

His Nose Pierceth Through Snares

Job 40:15-24

Job 40:15 Behold now behemoth, which I made with thee; he eateth grass as an ox.

16 Lo now, his strength [is] in his loins, and his force [is] in the navel of his belly.

17 He moveth his tail like a cedar: the sinews of his stones are wrapped together.

18 His bones [are as] strong pieces of brass; his bones [are] like bars of iron.

19 He [is] the chief of the ways of God: he that made him can make his sword to approach [unto him].

20 Surely the mountains bring him forth food, where all the beasts of the field play.

21 He lieth under the shady trees, in the covert of the reed, and fens.

22 The shady trees cover him [with] their shadow; the willows of the brook compass him about.

23 Behold, he drinketh up a river, [and] hasteth not: he trusteth that he can draw up Jordan into his mouth.

24 He taketh it with his eyes: [his] nose pierceth through snares.

Pray

More Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices

II Cor. 2:11; Eph. 6:11

2 Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Satan's Wiles Especially for Children and Young People

1. **Having fun** [fame and fortune] is a good end.

Mk. 8:36 What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Heb. 11:25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.

94/95 Barna report: 61% of Americans believe that the main purpose in life is enjoyment and personal fulfillment. 50% of "born-again" Christians believe that things of this world have worth.

2. Christians are **dour** people. [built-in trap: a God-fearing person cannot laugh at everything; what others find humor in, he doesn't]

Ec. 7:5 It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.

Ec. 7:14 In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider.

Pro. 17:22 A merry heart doeth good like a medicine.

3. Being accepted by the world is **desirable**.

I Jn. 2:15 Love not the world.

Mt. 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth.

4. It is okay to have lower standards than your family, church, or school, because you see other **good** Christians with these standards.

II Tim. 3:14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned.

Pro. 22:28 Remove not the ancient landmark.

5. It **feels** so spiritual (good), it must be right.

Gal. 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

6. **Everybody else** is doing it, so it must be okay.

Ex. 23:2 Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil...

7. **Love** is a higher, more noble motivation than duty.

Jn. 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. [They are inextricable.]

Rom. 6:13b Yield yourselves unto God.

[Often we confuse self-indulgent behavior for love - personal benefit or feeling, what will I get? how do I feel? Duty centers motivations in God rather than in self.] Duty and love converge into one line.

[The jury is still out on the root.]

8. You **are lost** anyway, so you might as well sin. [J. Bunyan]
[conform to reality anyway]

9. I've lost my **innocence**. What's the use?

I Jn. 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.

10. Wait until you're **older** to serve the Lord.

Ec. 12:1 Remember now thy Creator, in the days of thy youth.

11. Wholesome independence means leaving the principles and practices **on which you were brought up**. [This is rebellion.]

Ex. 20:12 Honor thy father and thy mother.

II Tim. 3:14 Continue thou in the things which thou hast learned.

12. You can **do wrong** and get away with it.

Gal. 6:7,8 Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Num. 32:23 Be sure your sin will find you out.

Satan's Wiles Especially for the Family

1. **Family** time comes before church time (or vice versa). [God is first - everything else is second.]

Ec. 3:1 To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.

2. **Moms** must work outside the homes these days.

Titus 2:5 keepers at home

Jud. 4:4 Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time.

3. The **man** is the head of the home. [Beware correction.]

I Cor. 11:3 The head of every man is Christ.

I P. 3:7 Husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge.

June 1, 1997

Commencement Address

He Is a King Over All the Children of Pride

Job 41:34

Satan's Wiles Especially For Young People

1. “ _____ is a good end.”

Lk. 12:19 "Let us eat, drink, and be merry."

Pro. 7:6-27 Come, let us take our fill of [fun] until morning.

Pro. 23:5 Why shouldst thou set thine eyes upon that which is not?

2. "Christians are _____ people."

Ps. 1:1-2 Blessed is the man that walketh ... in the law of the Lord.

Ec. 7:5 It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.

Pro. 17:22 A merry heart doeth good like a medicine.

3. "Being accepted by the world is _____."

II Tim. 4:10 Demas hath forsaken me.

I Jn. 2:15 Love not the world.

Mt. 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth.

4. "It is okay to have lower standards than your family, church, or school, because you see other _____ Christians with these standards."

Ps. 68:6 God setteth the solitary in families.

Ps. 2:3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their chords from us.

Rom. 14:4 To his own master he standeth or falleth.

Pro. 22:28 Remove not the ancient landmark.

5. "It _____ so spiritual (good), it must be right."

Pro. 16:25 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man.

Gal. 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

I Jn. 3:19-21 If our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart.

6. "_____ is doing it, so it must be okay."

Ex. 23:2 Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil...

Mt. 7:13 Broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat.

Lk. 16:15 That which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

Acts 28:22 This way is everywhere spoken against.

7. "_____ is a higher, more noble motivation than duty."

I Jn. 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.

Jn. 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Rom. 6:13b Yield yourselves unto God.

8. "You _____ anyway, so you might as well sin."

Ps. 150:6 Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

9. "I've lost my _____ . What's the use?"

I Jn. 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.

10. "Wait until you're _____ to serve the Lord."

Ec. 12:1 Remember now thy Creator, in the days of thy youth.

11. "Wholesome independence means leaving the principles and practices _____."

Ex. 20:12 Honor thy father and thy mother.

II Tim. 3:14 Continue thou in the things which thou hast learned.

12. "You can _____ and get away with it."

Gal. 6:7,8 Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Num. 32:23 Be sure your sin will find you out.

Job 41:34 He is a king over all the children of pride.

"Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

Eph. 6:11

1. loins girt about with truth **know, love, live, tell the truth**
2. breastplate of righteousness **fulfill your responsibilities (do the right thing)**
3. feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace **be ready to give out the gospel**
4. shield of faith **acceptance of the truthfulness, goodness, power, and sovereignty and love of God**
5. helmet of salvation **expectation of eventual deliverance**
6. sword of the Spirit **meditation and application of Scripture**
7. praying **supplication for help and worship**
8. watching **staying awake to God**

God Is Always Reasonable

It Is Reasonable (and Possible) for You to Be Holy/Happy!!

Are You?! Job 10: 1-13

Rom 12: 1,2

Be reasonable!

God's ways are beyond ours (unsearchable), yet God is reasonable! Is. 55: 8,9

God is **reasonable**. [just right]

Reason and justice are **Siamese** twins.

Reason: that which **makes sense** with right. [ought]

1. He is just. Rom. 3:26 The word reason in Job 13:3 means to show to be right
2. His judgment is according to truth. Rom. 2:2
3. Unreasonableness is characteristic of wickedness. II Thes. 3:2; Ps. 109:3; Pro. 1:11
4. He is. Heb. 12:6 (a presuppositional faith)
5. Scripture assumes reason. Pro. 23:29
6. God reasons, scripture declares that He has not acted without reason. Eze. 14:23; Is. 1:18
7. God does not pervert reason. Job 8:3
8. Job 10:22 without any order - arrange

God answers our "why?" (request for reasons), but not **beyond His Word**.

John Gill, a good commentator of the 1500's, said that Job's asking God "why?" in verse 3 was an appropriate request. And Mathew Henry added a 100 years later that *"There is always a reason why when God contends, but God never tell us circumstantial whys."*

But we do know His purpose for us is Christlikeness and that can answer all the questions. But we also know some more why answers: He wants to purge us from our sin. He wants to prepare us for what is coming. He wants to deepen us, and to develop sympathy and love in us for Christ and others! And He wants to bless us, and then use us to help others be blessed as well!

And He expects our **reasonable** service. Rom. 12:2

Six Reasons to Help You Be Holy/Happy [from Job 10:1-13

1. (vs. 1,2) Because of your alternative you must choose between **life** and **death**. (the alternative self life death and hell or Christ life, life, and heaven
 - a. The only satisfying life is the **Christ** life which is Christ working out His life in your **body** and **soul**. God's goal for us is **Christlikeness**. The more Christ-like one is, the more **blessed** he is (Ps. 119:1).

- b. How do you get holy/happy?! We must first understand holiness a little better.

Holiness, or sanctification, has two aspects:

- a. a separation (turning away) from anything impure, and
- b. a separation (dedication) unto God

Now, how does this occur? There is the (1) divine side “of the coin”, and the (2) human side. Here is the holiness medicine.

- 1) You must first and always accept that only **God** can make you holy [sanctified]. I Thes. 5:23, 24
The secret of holiness/happiness - victory lies in part in learning the executive role of the Holy Spirit in this process. There is no mention of the Holy Spirit in Romans 7, but He is mentioned sixteen times in Romans 8!
- 2) On the human side, there is [absolute] need to trust Christ and His **work** on the cross. Act2 26:18
There is the need for faith in God, to trust the redemptive work of Jesus Christ (which faith only God can supply. It is most helpful to remember our helplessness.
Trust God to accomplish (be motivated) what He began.
- 3) Ask for **faith** and **sanctification**. Lk. 11:13
- 4) Let the Word of Christ dwell in your mind. Col. 3:16; Jn. 17:17
- 5) Eschew **evil**. Rom 6:19-21; II Cor. 6:17; 7:1
- 6) Cleave to **good**. Heb. 12:14
- 7) Accept [Despise not] **chastisement**. Heb. 12:10,11

This is how to be filled with the Spirit!

- (c. Two roads diverged.... Only two choices on the shelf Only Christ or all other religions
- (d. Yet, we can be holy and not happy - for a time! Do not miss this second great lesson of Job!
- (e. The more Christ-like, the more holy, the more Holy Spirit ministry occurs! Listen to how the Holy Spirit ministers! Through teaching all things -

helping us understand what we need, guiding - through enlightened reasoning and effort, comforting, assuring, strengthening, relaxing, inspiring, worship and gratitude, and helping us pray!

2. (vs. 3,4) God is so **good**.
 - a. **Ps. 119:68 Thou [art] good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes.**
 - b. God does not look at man as severely as man does (AB), putting the worse possible twist on motives or with eyes of envy and hatred, as eyes of the flesh do (Gill).
 - c. God sees not as man sees (I Sam. 16:7); He sees with eyes of love (Rom. 5:8).
3. (v. 5) Man is **finite**, and God is **infinite**.
4. (vs. 6,7) There is no other source of **true happiness**. (salvation, no other place to go).
5. (vs. 8-12) He is the **Creator**. Ps. 119:73
6. (v. 13) (All) These things are otherwise **hidden**. (from us unless He reveals them)

What Is Our Reasonable Service?

1. Present your bodies to live out **the Christ life**. Rom. 12:1,2
 - a. **salvation**
 - b. **dedication**
2. Fulfill your **ministry**. Col. 4:17; Rom. 12:2
3. Pass **it** on. II Cor. 5:17-21
 - a. to your children - holiness, happiness
 - b. to all around you

October 12, 1997

Man Is Born unto Trouble

Seek Unto God

Job 5:7,8

Eliphaz waited politely until Job finished.

It is accurately recorded by inspiration that Eliphaz said the following.

1. Job had been a **good** man (4:1-6).
2. He (Eliphaz) had seen, observed that it was the wicked who perished (4:7-11).
3. He had experienced in a dream that God is more **just** and more **pure** than man who also is very **frail** (4:12-21).
4. Man experiences **misery** because of his sin (5:1-7).
5. Job should seek unto God (5:8-16).
6. Job should not despise God's chastening (5:17-27).

<p>How to minister to others (I Thes. 5:14): exhort (come along side of) brethren (near or remote) warn (place on the mind) unruly (insubordinate, unarranged) comfort (encourage, cheer up) feeble-minded (faint hearted) support (hold firmly to) weak (strengthless, sick) be patient (long-spirited) toward all</p>
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Eliphaz “should” have said:

1. No man is more just or pure than **God** (4:17).
2. Man is born in sin (5:7).
3. Seek unto **God** (5:8).
4. God is **wonderful** (5:9)!
5. Let **God** “operate” (5:18; Phil. 1:6; I P. 5:8-10).
6. Grow in grace and in the knowledge of God (II P. 3:18).

Wanted: Dead or Alive

by October 19, 1997

Eliphaz the Temanite

(M)

Crime

(42:7,8):

(T) Crime plan:

A. his reasoning (deductive)

1. The ones perishing are _____ (4:7-9; 15:17-35).
2. You are perishing.
3. (Ergo) Job is _____.

B. his other premise (thought) (5:7; 15:14-16; 4:17-21): _____

(W) Partner (that is, what authority is backing him in his crime?):

 (4:12-17; 5:27; 15:8-11, 17-19)

(Th) Personality profile (his tone):

 (4:2-4) (5:17; 22:21-30) (15:1-6)

 (4:7; 15:17-19)

(F) His advice:

 (4:7) (5:8) (15:31)

 (22:21-23) a plan (22:21-30)

(Sa) Conclusion

purpose: to inspire supreme confidence in God
 March 5, 2000

Be rooted and grounded in love
His Confidence Shall Be Rooted Out [of himself
 Job 18:11-16

open: Ps. 27:1-3 Lord is my light

ann: plan to get confidence (119:117): be effective witness, raise family, good leaders, good student

Ps. 118:117 Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually.

intro: travel to Columbus Mon.; what can I say with confidence regarding GW Bush/BJU? We all have passions. My passion is Christ.

Since when must speakers denounce politically inconsistent views?

I. An Overview of Confidence

A. What is it? True confidence is a God-given **assurance** and **hope** in God that He is in control and that He is caring for me.

1. refuge; (objective) security or (subjective); assurance, hope, trust
Strong's
2. God-given assurance and hope in God that He is in control [omnipotent, wise, sovereign] and that He is caring for me [and will care for, love, enable, protect me].
3. God-rootedness; the consciousness of being rooted and grounded in love

B. Is it desirable? **yes!** Is. 30:15 [thereby have strength]; Lk. 10:27 [thereby properly love God]; Eph. 3:16 [aspect and prerequisite for fulness which is the ultimate, the ultimate end for which God made the world.

Isaiah 30:15 For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.

Luke 10:27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

Ephesians 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

Furthermore, confidence enables us to minister (Is. 30:15 “force”), love others, give speech, face huge obstacles, to be fearless, to trust God and people! to be released to live a full-breathing (100% O₂) life of freedom; it is a form of hope and faith! (It is necessary for salvation); confidence that it will be worth it all when we see Jesus: heaven will be most wonderful

C. What kinds of confidence are there [here in this flock]?

1. **no** confidence

2. **false** confidence [what not to have confidence in

False confidences include trusting in your physical bodies or abilities, your mind, personality, looks, skills, coping abilities (“crutches”), wealth, property, house, horse, car; children (to bring present and future happiness), wife, health – that you jog or eat well; grandchildren, friends, social support, feelings, false beliefs (Jer. 48:13); gold (Job 31:24); man (118:8,9; Pro. 25:19, friend, guide (Mic. 7:5), systems, study habits, college degrees, job, political elections,

retirement. (Phil. 3:3 Have no confidence in the flesh) (Job's great need was to increase in God confidence, to come to know the fulness of God.)

Jeremiah 48:13 And Moab shall be ashamed of Chemosh, as the house of Israel was ashamed of Bethel their confidence.

Job 31:24 If I have made gold my hope, or have said to the fine gold, Thou art my confidence;

Psalms 118:8 It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

Psalms 118:9 It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.

Proverbs 25:19 Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.

Micah 7:5 Trust ye not in a friend, put ye not confidence in a guide: keep the doors of thy mouth from her that lieth in thy bosom.

Philippians 3:3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

3. **true confidence (with degrees of feeling)**

[this message will help you have confidence in perpetuity (heaven), providence (circumstances), positions (decisions), people, path (God's will), perplexity (distress) and more plenty]

II. Let's look through some **Scriptural Windows into Confidence**

A. Seeing confidence through Job 18:11-16: "confidence shall be rooted out" [of self] [description of one with his eyes open who is not rooted in God

1. (vs. 11-13) **Terrors** [emotional distresses, insecurities, unconfidences] **shall make him afraid** [-insecure,] (**lacking confidence**) **on every side. and shall drive him to his feet.**
(v. 12) His strength from himself, his self-confidence, shall be hunger-bitten, shall be failing, and destruction (of everything including confidence) shall be ready at his side.
(v. 13) It – his lack of true self-confidence – shall devour the self-strength of his skin: even death as the first born of sin-self confidence – or confidence rooted ultimately anywhere but in God – shall devour his strength.
2. (v. 14, 15) His confidence (**assurance, hope, trust**) **shall be rooted out of his tabernacle.** [and it – loss of confidence (rooted out), light, darkness – shall bring him to the king of terrors (abject unconfidence – fear; death – separation from God, last enemy, terror fills the void)
 - a. difference between security and assurance
 - b. which develops more God-confidence: circumstances of adversity or prosperity? both should (Rom. 2:4)
Rom. 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?
 - c. II Tim. 1:7; II Cor. 4:

II Tim. 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

(v. 15) It – terrors, lack of confidence – shall dwell (continue) in his dwelling place, because it is none of his – lost (self-) control, taken over by curse of lost confidence torments; brimstone shall be scattered upon his habitation – insecurities/unconfidences shall be strawed upon. (Lightning strikes v. 16 tree.)

3. (v. 16) His **roots** shall be dried up beneath[; what he draws nourishment from; the source of his life, inspiration, vigor, and strength; **and above** shall his branch be cut off: includes lasting work for God and any true confidence
Now click on a NT window (II Cor. 4:7-18) which gives three principles for rooting true confidence in God.

B. Seeing confidence through II Corinthians 4:7-18: root [your] confidence in God [Jesus Never Fails]

1. (vs. 10-12) die to **self** [eg., reject propensity to fear, doubt, confusion]
2. (vs. 14-18) renew **mind daily** (in scriptures of coming deliverance, present grace, thanksgiving, God's glory, our future glory, eternal)
3. (v. 13) live in **Christ** [as a branch to the vine]

C. Seeing confidence through a systematizing of “scriptural confidences” (scriptural grounds for confidence)

1. the **written Word** of God Pro. 3:26; 14:26; I Jn. 5:14,15

Proverbs 3:26 For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

Proverbs 14:26 In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.

1 John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

1 John 5:15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

[as enlightened by the Spirit (2 wks)]

three current issues wherein we do not pass world's litmus test

ecumenism

“race”

gayness

There is supreme confidence in standing on rightly-divided doctrine!

2. the **work** of Christ Jn. 9:4

John 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

- a. His death, burial, and resurrection I need no other argument, plea, confidence
 - b. His righteousness
There is much confidence in basing our salvation on what He did versus how we feel!
 - c. These are objective, time-space-mass based.
3. **the Spirit of Christ Phil. 1:6; 4:11, 13, 19; Ps. 118: 8,9**
Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:
- a. all-powerful, all-wise, all-good
 - b. I will never let you down Heb. 13:5,6
Hebrews 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.
Hebrews 13:6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.
 - c. Phil. 4:11, 13, 19 What confidence these bring us as they percolate!
Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.
Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.
Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
4. **the mercy and grace of God II Cor. 4:1; Heb. 4:16**
II Corinthians 4:1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;
Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.
 It is only in God's grace that we can enjoy true confidence!
5. **heaven Heb. 10:34,35**
Hebrews 10:34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.
Hebrews 10:35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.
6. **authority Rom. 13:1; I Pet. 5:6**
Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.
1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:
- a. There is much confidence that you have your authorities' blessing, because there is no authority but of God!
 - b. Be open toward authority. (in principle; Pro. 29:11

Pro. 29:11 A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.

- c. Recognize the tendency to question or approve motive, to assume depravity – carnality or spirituality, to spin reality

7. **the providence of God** Gen. 50:20 [related to 5]

Gen. 50:20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

- a. background Phil. 1:12; II Tim. 3:14, 15

Philippians 1:12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

2 Timothy 3:14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

2 Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

You were God-placed in your birth family, country, home, church, body, preparing you for a specific purpose.

Youth especially need to consider the leadership of your God-placed, God-fearing, you-loving parents (II Tim. 3:14); Pro. 10:1 teaches to find your happiness only within theirs.

Proverbs 10:1 The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

- b. current placement (position) I Cor. 7:17

1 Corinthians 7:17 But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.

- c. current circumstances Phil. 1:12 (There is confidence in knowing and resting in that God orders all things)

Philippians 1:12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

8. **counsel** Pro. 11:14; 15:22

Proverbs 11:14 Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

Proverbs 15:22 Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.

- a. “Review the literature” of the wisest-on-issue-God-fearing-providentially-placed people!

9. **seeing (or seeming)** Pro. 16:25; Rom. 2:19) Rom. 6:11

Proverbs 16:25 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Romans 2:19 And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness,

- a. Step out in faith with confidence reckoning and knowing that God is with you, placing your weight on the above foundation,

otherwise blindness and arrogance (eg. Jn. 7:24- some emphasize first half, some second)

John 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

- b. How do we know we're operating in the Spirit, and not in the flesh? We reckon it to be so based on the Word of God (#1-8) (Eph. 3:12). Our faith is in God and His Word – not our judgment! Don't trust people, but do trust God!
Ephesians 3:12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him. con – with fidence - faith
- c. "Don't trust anybody." Trust only God and 1) His placement of that person in your life, whether that person is an authority or otherwise; 2) God's moving in hearts and circumstances; 3) God's giving you wisdom to see what you need to see, and to act and speak as you ought.

Our problem often in not trusting other people, is often more a matter of protecting ourselves from them, fearing further hurt: it is a problem of not trusting God. We take a position toward another in our arrogance, and then rationalize by saying, "they've not asked forgiveness" or "they have to prove something" attempting to conceal much anger and bitterness within. Learn to reflect confidence toward others as you have confidence in God's ability, wisdom, and love (Gal. 5:10; II Thes. 3:4).

Galatians 5:10 I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.

II Thes. 3:4 And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you.

III. Confidence Is Part of the Fulness of God (Eph. 3:16-19)

Eph. 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

A. Be rooted and grounded in love; and remember, God is love!

- B. Die to self, beginning at salvation, renew your mind daily and constantly in the soil of these great living truths, and reckon yourself alive in Christ. Be confident!
- C. Remember that confidence is a gift of God (Eph. 3:12) and true confidence cannot be worked up by you (Gal. 5:22 – faith) Ps. 119:117
Eph. 3:12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.
Gal. 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
Psalms 119:117 Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually.

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

2 Corinthians 4:8 ¶ We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

2 Corinthians 4:9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

2 Corinthians 4:10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

2 Corinthians 4:11 For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

2 Corinthians 4:12 So then death worketh in us, but life in you.

2 Corinthians 4:13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;

2 Corinthians 4:14 Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.

2 Corinthians 4:15 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

2 Corinthians 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

possibly

November 2, 1997

How to Have Confidence in God

Job 6

1. _____ to trust God (v. 4) Jn. 3:27; Ps. 16:8, 9; Phil. 2:13.
2. _____ His past providences toward you (v. 5).
3. Make _____ your goal (6:8, 11).
4. _____ devilish thinking (6:13).
5. _____ with people of faith (6:14).

6. _____ what you know to do (6:24).

purpose: to inspire us to live for others

[to seal soul “communion”; will you be missed when you’re gone?! Pull yourself out of this year – were you useful?

to answer the question, “how useful are you?” Onesimus; we are called to a life of ministry; as important as marriage is, it is only “part of life (Pro. 24:27)

Proverbs 24:27 Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build thine house.

December 16, 2001

when the ear heard me, then it blessed me

Because I Delivered

Job 29:11-17

Job 29:11 When the ear heard me, then it blessed me; and when the eye saw me, it gave witness to me:

12 Because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him.

13 The blessing of him that was ready 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 judgment was as a robe and a diadem.

15 I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame.

16 I was a father to the poor: and the cause which I knew not I searched out.

17 And I brake the jaws of the wicked, and plucked the spoil out of his teeth.

intro: significance: degree of worth; we have value to the degree we are Christ centered and a blessing to others; vanity of vanities unless we fear God and keep His commandments which one summarized: love God and love others

Δ Jonathan Edwards died remembered 1) size, 2) encouragement, 3) faithfulness.

you are about to enter the world of my longest point ever!

I. **Job was a blessing** [he had significance] **not because he was rich, had a wonderful family, was a respected magistrate, was full of manly vigor, was knowledgeable and wise, was a good manager and leader, was skillful as a livestock man, was successful in business but Job was a blessing because he was useful.** [he delivered, saved the poor, afflicted, needy, the depressed (Job 29:10). We are surrounded by the poor, afflicted, needy, the depressed.

Job 29:10 The nobles held their peace, and their tongue cleaved to the roof of their mouth.

People noticed and respected Job and wished him well, because he lived a life of ministry. We are here to minister to others, not to serve ourselves, and we have significance only as we fear God and serve others (Mt. 20:28).

Matthew 20:28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

II. How was Job useful (vs. 10-17)?! [rather, Job translated from 2000 BC to today; how to treat friends, brothers, neighbors, those in the body; how Job would have been useful today

Job's minisistries:

1. Job delivered the poor that cried (v. 12). He would rescue the depressed [the afflicted, the needy] **by giving them Hope.**

- a. He would do this today in Lima, Ohio, by giving hope. These can be dark days. When a man has no hope, he has nothing, he wants to die. Discouragement leads to depression which leads to despair which leads to death. This needs arrested immediately, and not by pills. "He has the signs of studied 'clinical depression'" – i.e., signs which have been identified by the experts who have studied this: lethargy, withdrawn. When someone brings hope, the poor in hope brighten, and they bless the hope bringer. Job would bring hope by his disposition, words, and acts. He would give good words (Pro. 12:25); he would greet people cheerily and with genuine warmth. (Paul's letters were full of sincere brightness and hope which is not to say that he didn't point out the hopelessness and despair of living for self and sin.)

Proverbs 12:25 Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad.

- b. Job would point people to Christ, Who is hope personified. It is not the pastor or the friend or any human person which is the source of lasting hope, but it is Christ (I Sam. 30:6)! Job would not recommend "popping pills" or drugs or getting highs from other emotion-manipulating sources (Pro. 14:13), but he would prescribe and administer the following potions: "my friend, my brother, my neighbor"

1 Samuel 30:6 And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

Proverbs 14:13 Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness.

- 1) without Him we can do nothing (Jn. 15:5). All is hopeless.

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

- 2) But with God, all things are possible (Mt. 19:26).
Matthew 19:26 But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.
- 3) Is anything too hard for the Lord (Gen. 18:14)? Are your problems insurmountable?
Genesis 18:14 Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.
- 4) Ps. 42:5
Psalms 42:5 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.
- 5) Ps. 27:1,14; Rom. 5:8; Jer. 31:3
Psalms 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalms 27:14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Jeremiah 31:3 The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

- c. Job primarily would seek to help those who cried, those who wanted help, yet Job would not ignore the characterless.
- d. And Job would have to keep himself encouraged (1 Sam. 30:6; Rom. 15:4).
1 Samuel 30:6 And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

Romans 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

2. **Job delivered the fatherless. Job would minister to those** in our community **who had no Holy Spirit filled leader**
 - a. People need a leader.
 - b. He would be like Claude Paxton who sees those needs under his nose, and he would care to send God-called missionaries to lands which do

not have the gospel message which produces such fathers, or he would go himself. God is worthy to receive glory and honor and power, and He's not receiving that in territories where Christ is not known. Will you give yourself to this most wonderful life of ministry?

3. [Job's third ministry!] **Job delivered him that had none to help him.** [Job would not fall in simply with classmates or peers with whom he was comfortable or who flattered him, but **he would intentionally seek out those who had none to help him.** [He would seek out the unlovely, in some cases those in rest homes, and those who couldn't repay him. This probably also included Kathy Paxton's helping students with their math! Two groups of people to intentionally befriend are 1) the godly (Pro. 13:20) and 2) the needy, like Job.

Proverbs 13:20 He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

3

4. **Job ministered to him that was ready to perish (v. 13).** **He would** figure out some way to **minister to the persecuted Christians** in lands far away like in the Sudan or in communist China. He would remember those who are in bonds and pray for them and seek to send relief to them and even seek to go himself. The primary meaning here is that Job would defend legally those who had no one else to defend their just cause.

5. **Job caused the widow's heart to sing for joy.** He would attend visitation times before funerals, and take time to pray for grace for the sorrowing. **He would refresh the bereaved!** He would make sure there was adequate insurance coverage (Philemon 1:7; Neh. 8:10-12). Job **caused** – he didn't just tell them to "be happy" – he led them to it! Not only must we be finding happiness in the Lord ourselves, which is a daily and constant pursuit, and not only must we be telling others about it, but we must be causing them to taste it themselves! trailblaze – teach – tote
Philemon 1:7 For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.

Nehemiah 8:10 Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

11 So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, Hold your peace, for the day is holy; neither be ye grieved.

12 And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.

6. [Job's sixth ministry] **Job put on righteousness, and it clothed him (v. 14).** **Job would fulfil his obligations, and keep his word.** He would hold fast his integrity and not let it go. He would do right and be dependable if he lived today in Lima, Ohio. It was common to express character traits as clothing (Is. 59:17; 61:10; Rom. 13:14), and Job did not walk around

naked pertaining to righteousness. He came out of his mother's womb bereft of character clothing, but he didn't return that way.

Isaiah 59:17 For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke.

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

Romans 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

4

7. Job also put on judgment as a robe and a diadem (or turban). Job was a well-dressed man! Today **he would base his decisions on the completed word of God – not on his prejudices**, his background, education, and disposition. During a debate on accreditation at this recent September's AACSB board meeting, after some time, Dr. John Vaughn addressed the group and said, "I've heard a lot of personal opinions, but I'm not hearing scripture presents." **Δ D. McCallister – "souls saved"** Having a name for consistently basing your decisions on the Word of God is a great ministry!

8. Job was eyes to the blind (v. 15). Job's ministry today would include reading to those who can't, or taking tapes to those who can't read, or perhaps cannot attend services. Job also would live a life of ministry which included **taking the gospel to those whose eyes the god of this world hath blinded** (II Cor. 4:4). And to the body of Christ, Job would apply the Dr. Bob, III, thought: "Give more light to those who don't see as far as you do, not more burden" (Num. 10:31; I Cor. 12:16-25).

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Numbers 10:31 And he said, Leave us not, I pray thee; forasmuch as thou knowest how we are to encamp in the wilderness, and thou mayest be to us instead of eyes.

1 Corinthians 12:16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

19 And if they were all one member, where were the body?

20 But now are they many members, yet but one body.

21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:

23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:

25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

9. **Job was feet to the lame.** Job would be quick to do things for those not so able. **He would bear others' burdens, as well as his own.** He would study as a student, taking the necessary hours, knowing studying is his own burden which only he can bear; yet if he doesn't it becomes a real heaviness to her that bear him.

5

10. **Job was a father to the poor (v. 16).** Job not only ministered to the depressed (v. 12), but he was a father to the destitute. While he would despise a welfare system which cultivates dependency, **he would constantly think in terms of helping the needy with immediate needs** as well as in taking their next steps of growth; i.e., teaching them how to fish.
11. **Job searched out the cause which he knew not.** Job today would eschew jumping to conclusions, **but instead would take the time and energy to first understand.** His way would not be that of the "quick fix."
12. **Job broke the jaws of the wicked (Pro. 30:14), and plucked the spoil out of his teeth (v. 17).** **Job today would have the ministry of** stopping gossip and **exposing slander and lies.** He would protect others' names. he would expose fake religions and cults and other corruptions of the truth, and deliver those lost to the world, flesh, and devil. These three are very powerful, and we forget that. They are constantly breathing out discouragements, depressions, and deceit. We need to fight this world-flesh-devil complex ourselves in our own lives by praying for grace, trusting God, letting the Word dwell in us richly, faithfully attending church, and practicing soul-communion; and then we must seek to pluck others out of the three-fold jaws as well.
- Proverbs 30:14 There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.

III. Yield yourself to the word of Christ to be useful!

Application

"For perhaps you therefore departed for a season that you might be "Onesimus forever" (v. 15).

0. Pray "Let me have grace to be useful, and to even care about this." And pray fervently for others (Eph. 4:15-18).

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

1. Practice “soul communion.” Greet one another with a holy kiss of Christian fellowship. Greet them; brighten their day. Be pleasant. Bear ye one another's burdens. Listen to them, talk with them.

6

2. Cause those around you to hope in God. Give them encouragement to trust/hope in God, to become Christlike, Who is filled with hope. This is leading people to Christ.

3. Seek out and minister to the unloved.

4. Confront and expose evil in the most helpful way (Gal. 6:1).

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

5. Determine wherein you will minister this year. Live a life of ministry! Make this your focus even more.

- a. Identify your gifts and use them; approximately 17 in Rom. 12, I Cor. 12 and 14, Eph. 4; pray, counsel, list, surrender, volunteer/accept.

- b. Have specific ministries. our blessing is upon the following (as examples): K. Wright – flowers, Dawn/Lori – decoration, somebody – windows, Tim K. – water line, Mike E. – repairs, this man, this boy, this woman, this girl; prayer ministry!

- c. Prepare for life ministry!

- d. Bring spiritual light: evangelize/disciple, point to Christ!

- e. Be an encourager (Heb. 3:13).

Hebrews 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

This has been a message on focus.

Whom are you delivering right now?! How useful are you?

Whom could you be delivering right now?

Begin [or renew] delivering today!

purpose: to be grateful today for God's preserving you; pursue “the secret of God”

December 2, 2001

the secret of God [communion, counsel, assembly]

When God Preserved Me

Job 29:1-10

Job 29:1 Moreover Job continued his parable, and said,
2 Oh that I were as in months past, as in the days when God preserved me;
3 When his candle shined upon my head, and when by his light I walked through darkness;
4 As I was in the days of my youth, when the secret of God was upon my tabernacle;
5 When the Almighty was yet with me, when my children were about me;
6 When I washed my steps with butter, and the rock poured me out rivers of oil;
7 When I went out to the gate through the city, when I prepared my seat in the street!
8 The young men saw me, and hid themselves: and the aged arose, and stood up.
9 The princes refrained talking, and laid their hand on their mouth.
10 The nobles held their peace, and their tongue cleaved to the roof of their mouth.

I. “Oh that I were as in months past” (vs. 1,2a)

Is it right to wish things were as they use to be?

“Oh that I were as in months past.”

Job 1:1-5 what Job’s conditions were;
subjunctive mood – desirable, doubtful, conditional action;
indicative – states a fact or asks a question;
imperative – give a command or makes a request

Job 1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

2 And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters.

3 His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

4 And his sons went and feasted in their houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them.

5 And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.

A. Yes, if it leads to **repentance** and/or growth (Rev. 2:5). [or gratitude or grace or wisdom]

Revelation 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

B. No, if it is resenting **providence** (Acts 9:5; Phil. 4:11). [or increases discontent]

Acts 9:5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

C. Beware wishing something to be what it is **not** (Ec. 7:10).

Ecclesiastes 7:10 Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this.

1. Say not thou [Why were] the former days better than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this.
2. This is the day that the Lord hath made... Rejoice in Christ in circumstances. Be content! Listen at table – expressing gratitude for what God has done or constantly correcting, contradicting, like always asking God and never saying thank you!
3. These are the best days, the “months past.” Are you preserved [hedged about by God] now?! Has your property been destroyed? have your children all been killed? Have you been covered with an open sore from the sole of your foot to the crown of your head? Has your wife turned on you? Your friends? All? Then God is preserving you, at least to that degree! [Are you breathing? in excruciating pain? being tortured? blasphemously cursing God? having to sleep on the sidewalk at night without blankets, naked! in sub-zero weather?]

II. “as in the days when God preserved me”

What does it mean for God to “preserve” us (vs. 2b-10)?

four pairs of signs of God’s preservation, hedging us about, tokens of His favor; this tells us a lot about God. Job credits God.

spiritual prosperity

- A. “When His candle shined upon my head” (v. 3)
 1. He saw the truth. God gave him knowledge and understanding. he was illuminated.
 2. “I understood. Things made sense.”
 3. This is word “lamp” in 119:105; in heaven we won’t need sun.
Psalms 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

practical prosperity

- B. “when by His light I walked through darkness”
truth practiced wisdom
 1. God worked in Job a will to put into practice what he saw. This is wisdom.
 2. Desire, courage, wisdom are all needed, and these are gifts of God!
 3. He did have darkness: kids, property set-backs, marital, friends; This light “guided him in his doubts, comforted him in his griefs, bore him up under his burdens, and helped him through all his difficulties.” MH

human prosperity

- C. “As I was in the days of my youth” (v. 4) “mature manly vigor”
 1. He had vim and vigor; he was a driving force!
 2. He wanted to take the whole world on!

fellowship-with-God prosperity

D. “when the secret of [friendship and counsel AMP] God was upon my tabernacle.”

1. “God’s sweet presence was consciously felt by me in my dwelling;” “manifest presence” – sweet, vs. awful
2. “And He walks with me...” They conversed freely, God’s presence makes a cottage both a castle and a palace.
3. Job was experiencing the sweet elements of “abiding in Christ.” The gurgling brook, warm breezes, refreshed, non-tired-exuberant feeling was experientially his, at least periodically.
- (4. Abraham, probably a contemporary of Job, was called “the Friend of God” (Jms. 2:23). And, Pro. 18:24. Allah is not a personal God.
James 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

Proverbs 18:24 A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

ministry prosperity

E. “When the Almighty was yet with me” (v. 5)

1. co-workers
2. before He forsook me

family prosperity

F. “when my children [infancy-adolescence] were about me.”

1. Job had comfort in his family. This is perhaps the biggest sign of God’s earthly blessing, His preservation “We reckon amiss if, when we have lost our children, we cannot comfort ourselves with this, that we have not lost our God.” MH
2. There is no reason why fellowship can’t be maintained through adolescence.
 - a. Beware Pro. 13:20; I Cor. 15:33.
 - b. Carry prayer burden (Job 1:5).
 - c. Train (Pro. 22:6) [leaving results with Lord, pleading].

Proverbs 13:20 He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

1 Corinthians 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

Job 1:5 And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

material prosperity

- G. “When I washed my steps with butter, when...”
1. “Everything I touched turned to gold!”
 2. “His dairy abounded to such a degree that he might, if he pleased, ‘wash his steps with butter’; and his olive yards were so fruitful that it seemed as if the ‘rock poured him out rivers of oil.’” MH measured wealth in terms of ministry, not hoarding.

vocational, social prosperity

- H. “When I went out to the gate through the city...” (vs. 7-10)

III. “when the secret of God was upon my tabernacle”

What is the “secret of God” (v. 4) available today to Christians?

- A. The “abiding in Christ” relationship of John 15, the sweet position of not caring what happens to me, how I feel, He is all that matters, He must increase, and I must decrease; the fulness of God!
- B. The “secret of God” speaks of the manifest – made known – presence of God and also includes today the “body of Christ.” Turn to Col. 2:1-3. Paul had a deep concern for these Christians that their hearts might be encouraged by their unity – soul communion – in love [for God, truth, each other] and by their understanding, especially as pertains to the mystery (secret) of God, namely Christ!
- Colossians 2:1 For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;
- 2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;**
- 3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**
- C. This passage does not tell us how we arrive at this “secret of God.” That which tells us how is called the good news.

Applications

- A. Beware wishing you were as in months past.

Live today, in reality. Be content. “This is the day...” Do not live in the subjunctive.

(Understand that to be preserved by God in one sense includes valleys, some of which can be long.)

- B. Be thankful to the many current preservations of God.
- C. Pursue the secret of God. Delight in the Lord. Abide in Christ now.
It could be being withheld from you now for one of three reasons: sin (separate from church parallel), growth, unknown.
1. Do not quench the secret of God. Don't wait to get saved, right.
 2. Accept it when His sweet presence is withdrawn unbeknownst in the sense of waiting expectantly. Blessed preaching uncovers blockages (Amos 3:7).
Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.
 3. Maintain harmony among brethren to promote sweetness. Two problems: tolerating sin; too quick/wrong judgment (blindness)
Col. 2:2,3 love to Christ; love is end – and to see Christ formed – always to glorify God
Colossians 2:2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;
3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
- D. Live for comforts of eternity (I Cor. 15:19).
1 Corinthians 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.
- E. Comfort fellow travelers (Job 16:2).
Job 16:2 I have heard many such things: miserable comforters are ye all.

Make them glad they attend same church, have you as friend.

purpose: [to treat each other scripturally, which is deferentially (respect or esteem due a superior or an leader) which is continuing in the apostles' fellowship (Acts 2:42) **to lead each to esteem other better than self**
Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

December 30, 2001

Let Each Esteem Other Better!

Philippians 2:3; Job 29

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

ann. Acts 2:42 series – subtheme merges with foundational Job series and Philemon and I Thess.

intro: Job was blessed because he ministered; but wait – Job 30! (vs. 25,26); did they honor him because 29:12 or because Pro. 19:8; Jms. 2:1-6, our tendency to prejudice? (These two motivations are not mutually exclusive!) The outward show of respect does not determine inward motivation. But the Bible teaches we are to treat all men with respect endeavoring to preserve their dignity! How we carnally are tempted to treat the rich (Pro. 19:6) can guide us in how we should treat all men!

Proverbs 19:8 He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good.

James 2:1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

6 But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

Proverbs 19:6 Many will intreat the favour of the prince: and every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts.

I. The [illustration of] **Philippians 2:3 principle: “Let each esteem (consider, suppose, command – be in authority over) **other better (superior, higher in position or need for service) **than themselves.**”****

A. Esteem others better than self; i.e., respect others. [This does not mean to consider them smarter, wiser, better singer, your authority, they might be.

1. Let them go first “in line.” Give them the better position, place, piece.

2. Consider their perspectives first; first understand.

Δ bball philosophy: war, work of art, fun, exercise

3. In a sense, consider others your authority – let others command you – “your wish is my command”.

Δ Newly-elected Labor leader Eliezer said he wants to protect Shiman Perez’ dignity (the quality or state of being worthy, honored, or esteemed).

- B. God is no respector of persons (Rom. 2:11; I Pet. 1:17), nor should we be, in the sense of being partial in judgment (Pro. 24:23; 28:21; Jms. 2:9)!**

Romans 2:11 For there is no respect of persons with God.

1 Peter 1:17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man’s work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

Proverbs 24:23 These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment.

Proverbs 28:21 To have respect of persons is not good: for for a piece of bread that man will transgress.

James 2:9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

Distinguish the two senses. Jms. 2:1-9 money, race, fame

7 Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

- C. Why are we to “esteem other better than” ourselves?**

1. God said (Phil. 2:3).

2. Man is made in God’s image (Jms 3:9).

James 3:9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

3. (If) man is in Christ (Jms. 2:5).

James 2:5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

- II. The Philippians 2:3 illustration: Job 29 illustrates twelve ways in which each esteemed Job better than themselves! What practices unite Job’s world with ours in esteeming others better?** [Job was esteemed better than others by these others (in the days of his prosperity (vs. 2-7, 18-20) and ministry (vs. 12-17). Twelve ways Job was esteemed better/respected follow.]

1. **v. 8a** Youth should be seen and not heard, and sometimes not even seen! They **“gave place”** to Job.

the young men [children and teenagers] *saw me and hid themselves*

Young people especially should be quiet and unobtrusive, so that their personalities and likes/dislikes even disappear - illustrated by Philemon!

2. v. 8b **Stand up** in the presence of those to whom you would show respect; at least in your heart.
the aged arose, and stood up [continued standing]
 Δ “I may be sitting on the outside, but on the inside I’m standing.” Use titles.
3. v. 9 **Listen** and cause others to listen to the one you would respect.
The princes [rulers, leaders] *refrained* [“shut up”] *talking, and laid their hand on their mouth* [“sshhh”]
 Δ Probably the greatest Muslim leader was Sulliman. Surrounded by hundred of attendants, none was allowed to speak. It was awesome!
4. v. 10 **Stop what you are doing** to show respect! Don’t give them things to do.
The nobles [sheiks, emirs, head men] *held their peace and their tongue cleaved to the roof of their mouth* [mid-sentence].
5. v. 11a To respect another includes **wishing him well** in your heart – blessing him!
When the ear [people] *heard me* [speaking, coming], *then it blessed me.*
 To bless another is to invoke divine care for him and to speak gratefully of him.
6. v. 11b **Salute them** to whom you would show respect; acknowledge their presence, nod at them, light up at their presence.
When the eye saw me, it gave witness to me.
 The light of affection, admiration, and respect toward me was evident.
 Δ Girls be careful of being too friendly. Δ local choirs – dead look
 Δ especially man with family and co-workers
7. v. 21 We show respect to others by being willing to **wait for them** (to speak (Job 32:4,6), arrive, grow up, finish).
Unto me men gave ear, and waited... and kept silence at my counsel [advice, plan].
 Don’t make others wait for you – it is rude!
Job 32:4 Now Elihu had waited till Job had spoken, because they were elder than he.
6 And Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said, I am young, and ye are very old; wherefore I was afraid, and durst not shew you mine opinion.
8. v. 22 **Let others have the last word.**
After my words, they spake not again. [They let me have the last word.]
9. v. 23 They treated **desired his counsel** as being as necessary as rain (before proceeding).

And they waited for me as [the dry ground hopes] for rain, and they opened their mouth wide.

△ *Imagine a congregation's cultivating this (Heb. 13:17)! Ps. 81.10.*

Hunger and thirst after the Word.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

Psalms 81:10 I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.

10. v. 24a We respect others by **giving them liberty** to tease and assuming the best in their intentions.

If I laughed on [teased] them, they believed it not. [They knew what I was doing. AB – if I even made a disagreeing facial expression to something which was being said, they wouldn't believe what was being said.]

11. v. 24b **Brighten their day** of those you respect.

the light of my countenance they cast not down.

△ *Nehemiah was not allowed to be downcast in the presence of the king as his cupbearer. (This doesn't mean authority must never first darken his underling's day.)*

12. v. 25 Respect others by **giving them leadership** over you.

I chose out their way and sat chief [Whenever I chose to go in their way they made me the leader.]

The sum: esteem others better than yourself; treat another as you would be treated, preserving their dignity!

III. Who deserves esteem (respect)? **God!!** alone is worthy (**Rev. 5:12-14**).

- A. God! Rev. 5:12-14! We don't merely stand up in His presence – we fall down before Him (!) (Josh. 7:10) in Whose presence we always are! Yet He takes us by the hand, and lifts us up in Christ! “Get up, now and serve Me!”

Revelation 5:12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

Joshua 7:10 And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?

- B. Man shares in that respect only in his relationship to God - 1) image bearer of God (Jms. 3:9), 2) united with God (I Cor. 6:17; Jn. 17:21-23).

James 3:9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

1 Corinthians 6:17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

John 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

C. There are specially noted situations calling for “priority” respect.

1. authority/leadership

a. authority spheres – 9; all men have authority, jurisdiction, right to speak/decide; Phil. 2:12 – same chapter as text! Rom. 13:1; I Thes. 4:3 – disrespecting another’s purity disrespects the father’s authority

Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

b. **Δ** When you enter a room, you should support the leader or leave.

c. The list of how Job was treated is a good list for the proper treatment of all your authorities: civil, familial, ecclesiastical, business; there is no authority but of God!

2. elderly (Lev. 19:32; I K. 2:19; Is. 3:5; Lam. 5:12; I Tim. 5:1)

Leviticus 19:32 Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD.

1 Kings 2:19 Bathsheba therefore went unto king Solomon, to speak unto him for Adonijah. And the king rose up to meet her, and bowed himself unto her, and sat down on his throne, and caused a seat to be set for the king’s mother; and she sat on his right hand.

Isaiah 3:5 And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable.

Lamentations 5:12 Princes are hanged up by their hand: the faces of elders were not honoured.

1 Timothy 5:1 Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren;

3. those who labor in word (I Thes. 5:12,13; Heb. 13:17; I Tim. 5:17)
(you treat me well – SS teacher's, dads)

1 Thessalonians 5:12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

1 Timothy 5:17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

Δ FRH – to be most venerated man in our church

4. parents: teachers – in loco parentis (Ex. 20:12)
Exodus 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

5. poor in this world (Jms. 2:6)
James 2:6 But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

6. fellow Christians (Jn. 17: 21-23)
John 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

7. all (I Pet. 2:17; Jms. 3:9; Rom. 13:6,7,8)
1 Peter 2:17 Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

James 3:9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

Romans 13:7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

- O. The most utterly disrespectful thing you can do is to reject the God-man who died for you.

February 4, 2001

the rule of law
It Be
the kingdom of God
Job 24:25

intro: Truth is valuable. I once heard Mr. and Mrs. Williams in prayer thank God for a pastor (now emeritus) who taught them the truth for years. He taught them to live in reality, to live in the kingdom of God, to live in Christ. Lord, may I be that kind of pastor!

I. Face reality.

σ **plop down reality before them** What do we do with reality? Escape? Ignore? Distort? Originate?

Man is here to learn reality...so he can face it! Last week, Mr. Cave had a point in his message “keeping in touch with reality;” and in one the evening Brian Gibbons quoted ML “What matters is your relationship, attitude to Christ/reality! The closing speaker of the recent Medical Ethics seminar at BJ was Dr. Stuart Custer, considered by many to be the leading Bible scholar in our circles. A warm man who expresses things simply, with his erudition, he pointed out that as Christians as short-lived pilgrims, we are not here to live comfortable lives (life is hard – psyche self: cg. slave!); we are here to learn-study! And what are we to learn-study: Christ! (Eph. 4:20; Gal. 4:19). And Christ is the truth; and He is the ultimate delight. σ **Shannara**
How do you learn-study? Let me remind you

A. Take the time.

1. a daily Bible time
2. preaching – review
3. all day!

B. concentrate

1. I Cor. 7:35
2. Heb. 12:2
3. Jms. 1:8; 4:4

C. Incorporate

1. He is know by obedient learning.

2. Knowledge puffs up but love edifies.
3. Though I have all knowledge but have not charity, I am nothing.

II. **Reality is what is.**

0. v. 25 “it be.” \wedge it is \wedge it exists
 1. This statement is the debater’s close in his final rebuttal: “I ask the judge to give us the round.”
 2. 9:24; 12:11; 7:24,25
 3. two kinds of verbs: action and existence

A. What is?

1. Reality is. And, truth is.
2. Reality and truth are the same. Dr. Custer
truth: that which is eternally the same (Ps. 119:89-91)
 σ Dr. Salter: truth is characterized by eternity, immutability, indivisibility
3. God is: I AM (Ex. 3:13; Gen. 1:1).
 - a. God is reality, He is what is
 - b. of Him (created), through Him (sustained) (Col. 1:17), to Him (realigned) (Rom. 11:36)
 - c. Jn. 14:6
 - d. Does creation prove the reality/existence of God? Yes – everything proves the reality/existence of God! We are contextualists – foundaitonalists
 - e. Two kingdoms be (Col. 1:13; Rom. 6:16; Mt. 12:26; 4:8,9; Eph. 2:2).

B. What is not? [If it be not

1. What is not reality is a **distortion** of what is.
Such as a false witness of reality (Ex. 20): lying!
2. **Whoever/whatever** doesn’t “face reality” **refuses** to acknowledge God as God and doesn’t give God His rightful place.
Not facing this reality is the essence of sin and is an abomination to God and ends in hell when left alone (Rev. 21:8). Anytime a commandment is broken, God is not recognized as God, reality is not faced, false witnessing has occurred.
(The three greatest temptations to not facing reality which come from within are:
 - a) lust of the flesh
 - b) lust of the eyes
 - c) pride of life)

3. What is not consistent with reality is **“unreasonable”**.

a distortion of reason – **logos** (II Thes. 3:2; I Pet. 3:15) Evil is anything inconsistent – unreasonable, not right with God. Abhor that which is evil!

C. How do we face reality [what is]?

How do we know what is is?!

Who decides what reality is?!

1. We face reality as we live in the kingdom of God!

We can better understand how to face reality, that is, to live in reality, as we understand (living in) the kingdom of God. One living obediently in the kingdom of God is living in reality; otherwise, he is not.

The kingdom of God is mentioned in the gospels over 130x. (It is the same as the kingdom of heaven, which is debated by some, so-called only in the book of Matthew. It is believed that “heaven” is substituted for “God” in the book written especially for the Jews who avoided using the name of God.) The kingdom of God is defined as the kingdom over which God or heaven rules. It is within you (Lk. 17:20, 21). It was offered at the time of the gospels, and it is offered today. John the Baptist preached it, Christ preached it (Acts 28:31). (The sermon on the mount is the first grand sermon of kingdom living!) Not only is the kingdom of God within the believer (Lk. 17:20,21), he also is in the kingdom of God (); furthermore, he is the kingdom of God (Rev. 1:5,6) like an immigrant becomes a US citizen as well as residing in the US.

One enters it only as one is born from above, by the new birth (Jn. 3:3). Everyone from birth is under the jurisdiction of darkness, or he has been translated into the kingdom of God’s dear Son (Col. 1:13). The kingdom of God is a realm and a realm has ruler(s). Christ is the ruler of the kingdom of God (Eph. 5:5). He rules now only with assent.

Here is the point. One lives in reality only as he lives in the kingdom of God under the jurisdiction of/in submission to Christ! He lives in reality only as he is in Christ! Otherwise he is under the authority of the father of lies; he is living in unreality!

2. God’s law is an expression of the character and ways of God; that is, what is.

Sometimes, the scriptures are called God; law-word. As we understand what it means to be in the kingdom of God, that is, to be in Christ, we understand that an obedient Christian keeps the commandments not because they are of the law, but because they are

of the Lord! Rejection of the law is rejection of the ways and reality of God! The law of Christ is love (Gal. 6:2) and all the commandments of God are fulfilled from the heart as one loves his brother (Rom. 13:)!

Finding the will of God begins by observing the law-word of God; followed and reinforced by being obedient to authorities according to the law-word (Rom. 13:1); and only then considering “God’s working in the heart.” This third consideration must be subordinated to the first two issues to avoid falling into the “Inner Light” trap of Proverbs 28:26 and “romanticism.” [See Orthodoxy p. 74; Lk. 12:34.]

This discussion helps us understand the true “rule of law.

3. The rule of law stands opposed to the rule of the “Inner Light” of what I want, often disguised as what I think is right. You see, the rule of law is the control by law, and law presupposes a Law-giver (besides myself) (Is. 33:22).

III. What reality can we face in Job?

It be ^ truth be. What truth? Job spoke the thing of God that was and is right – certain – sure (42:7,8).

1. 24:1 Times are not hidden from the Almighty.
2. 24:1 They that know Him not see His days **of judgment**.
3. 24:2-11 The wicked oppress **openly** in this life.
4. 24:12-24 The wicked oppress **secretly** in this life.
5. 24:3,21 The work are **exploited** (in this life).
6. 24:22 The mighty are **exploited** (in this life).
7. 24:12 God does not change, prosecute, or **punish** the wicked (in this life).
8. 24:23 Those who rest (**trust**) in something other than God **unreality** are allowed to be in safety (in this life).
9. 24:23,24 All men **die** (and face judgment which is an **alignment** with reality).

Conclusion

- A. Job 24:25 should be our position in everything, in all humility: I Pet. 3:15
- B. Beware the great danger: self deception
 - 1. gaze at word (Pro. 29:13)
 - 2. remedy: love rebuke (Job 13:15)
- C. Pray and act “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done.
- D. Obey the “rule of law” and not your own “inner light”
Obey King Jesus.
 - 1. Eph. 5:18 Be
 - 2. Mt. 28: 18, 20; Acts 1:8
 - 3. Eph. 5:22 – 6:4
 - 4. Rom. 13:1

July 8, 2001

purpose: Do you see God? to derive guidance [principles!] from revelation (Ps. 19) and observation [meditation/humiliation/illumination] (Acts 11:16,17) Do not stubbornly cling to your positions, but humbly maintain God’s (cg v. 6). Be a doer of the word, and not a hearer (or haver) only. **Do not be stubborn.**

Acts 11:16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.

17 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as [he did] unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?

Why then are ye thus altogether vain [refuse to yield to keep!] (27:12)?

Behold, All Ye Yourselves Have Seen It

Job 27:11,12

Job 27:11 I will teach you by the hand of God: [that] which [is] with the Almighty will I not conceal.

Behold, all ye yourselves have seen [it]; why then are ye thus altogether vain?

I. (v. 12a) Behold, all ye yourselves have seen it.

A. What is “it”?

- 1. circumstances of God’s dealing with just and unjust (especially) in this life

2. **derived truth which has been pointed out**

3. **We are talking about truth you have (Jn. 14:21)!**

John 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

B. For illustration, consider the **Declaration of Independence**. [225 years! Principles of declaration vs. standards/precepts of Constitution]

“We hold these truths to be self-evident [axiomatic, corroborated by scripture, pointed out by founding fathers which otherwise would not have been so evident]

1. **that all men are created equal** [under the law (Acts 10:34)]

Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

God is no respecter of persons: the soul that sinneth it shall die (Eze. 18:4), except a man be born again (Jn. 3:3).

Ezekiel 18:4 Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

2. **that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights**

a. **life**

In Him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28)

Acts 17:28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

God breathed into man’s nostrils (Gen. 2:7).

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Thou shalt do no murder (Ex. 20:13).

Exodus 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.

b. **liberty**

to do what does not damage another

proclaim liberty throughout the land (Lev. 25:10)

stand fast (Gal. 5:1)

Leviticus 25:10 And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubile unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.

Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

c. **pursuit of happiness**

C. Why then are you not yielding to it?! [facing reality]

II. (v. 11a) I will teach you by the hand of God; i.e., I will teach you what God has taught me by His strong hand. [What great lesson has God uniquely taught you?!]

A. **One can better teach what one has endured.** [eg, POW – “Return with Honor,” Abe, Ethan, Alan; parenting, pastoring]

1. “Learning by experience.”
2. Insights are gained.
3. God’s modis operandi (Acts 11:16,17)

Acts 11:16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.

17 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?

B. Job’s burden primarily concerns God’s providential afflictions on the righteous vs. God’s providence in nature.

C. What principles (the counsels and purposes of God) can we derive from God’s mighty working?

III. (v. 11b) That which is with the Almighty will I not conceal.

Conclusions which Job has observed for them; they hadn’t learned from his preaching!

What God has revealed to you should not be concealed.

A. **6:4 (7:14-16; 10:1; 16:16,17; 19:5,6; 21:6; 27:2)**

God (sometimes) afflicts the righteous with terrors.

Job 6:4 For the arrows of the Almighty are within me, the poison whereof drinketh up my spirit: the terrors of God do set themselves in array against me.

Job 7:14 Then thou scarest me with dreams, and terrifiest me through visions:

15 So that my soul chooseth strangling, and death rather than my life.

16 I loathe it; I would not live alway: let me alone; for my days are vanity.

Job 10:1 My soul is weary of my life; I will leave my complaint upon myself; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul.

Job 16:16 My face is foul with weeping, and on my eyelids is the shadow of death;

17 Not for any injustice in mine hands: also my prayer is pure.

Job 19:5 If indeed ye will magnify yourselves against me, and plead against me my reproach:

Job 19:6 Know now that God hath overthrown me, and hath compassed me with his net.

Job 21:6 Even when I remember I am afraid, and trembling taketh hold on my flesh.

Job 27:2 As God liveth, who hath taken away my judgment; and the Almighty, who hath vexed my soul;

B. 6:24,25; 16:2-4; 19:2,3; 26:2-4
to help someone they must be helped

Job 6:24 Teach me, and I will hold my tongue: and cause me to understand wherein I have erred.

25 How forcible are right words! but what doth your arguing reprove?

Job 16:2 I have heard many such things: miserable comforters are ye all.

3 Shall vain words have an end? or what emboldeneth thee that thou answerest?

4 I also could speak as ye do: if your soul were in my soul's stead, I could heap up words against you, and shake mine head at you.

Job 19:2 How long will ye vex my soul, and break me in pieces with words?

3 These ten times have ye reproached me: ye are not ashamed that ye make yourselves strange to me.

Job 26:2 How hast thou helped him that is without power? how savest thou the arm that hath no strength?

3 How hast thou counselled him that hath no wisdom? and how hast thou plentifully declared the thing as it is?

4 To whom hast thou uttered words? and whose spirit came from thee?

C. 9:10 (12); 10:13; 26:14
God does things past finding out.

Job 9:10 Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number.

Job 9:12 Behold, he taketh away, who can hinder him? who will say unto him, What doest thou?

Job 10:13 And these things hast thou hid in thine heart: I know that this is with thee.

Job 26:14 Lo, these are parts of his ways: but how little a portion is heard of him? but the thunder of his power who can understand?

9:12

No formula commands God.

Job 9:12 Behold, he taketh away, who can hinder him? who will say unto him, What doest thou?

12:9; 16:11; 23:13,14; 26:7

God is sovereign; anything which happens does so according to God's direct or permissive will.

Job 12:9 Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this?

Job 16:11 God hath delivered me to the ungodly, and turned me over into the hands of the wicked.

Job 23:13 But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? and what his soul desireth, even that he doeth.

14 For he performeth the thing that is appointed for me: and many such things are with him.

Job 26:7 He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.

13:15, 16; 19:25-27; 23:10-12; 27:6

God always is to be trusted.

Job 13:15 Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.

16 He also shall be my salvation: for an hypocrite shall not come before him.

Job 19:25 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.

Job 23:10 But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

11 My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined.

12 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

Job 26:7 He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.

D. 14:4

No man can save himself.

Job 14:4 Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one.

E. 17:11; 19:10; 23:16

God brings the righteous to the end of themselves.

Job 17:11 My days are past, my purposes are broken off, even the thoughts of my heart.

Job 19:10 He hath destroyed me on every side, and I am gone: and mine hope hath he removed like a tree.

Job 23:16 For God maketh my heart soft, and the Almighty troubleth me:

19:4

Man is responsible for his sin.

Job 19:4 And be it indeed that I have erred, mine error remaineth with myself.

19:29

Obey authority

Job 19:29 Be ye afraid of the sword: for wrath bringeth the punishments of the sword, that ye may know there is a judgment.

F. 21:7; 24:12

The wicked often prosper in this life.

Job 21:7 Wherefore do the wicked live, become old, yea, are mighty in power?

Job 24:12 Men groan from out of the city, and the soul of the wounded crieth out: yet God layeth not folly to them.

21:14,15

The wicked think they don't need God.

Job 21:14 Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways.

15 What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?

G. 23:2-5

The righteous feel cut off from God

Job 23:2 Even to day is my complaint bitter: my stroke is heavier than my groaning.

3 Oh that I knew where I might find him! that I might come even to his seat!

4 I would order my cause before him, and fill my mouth with arguments.

5 I would know the words which he would answer me, and understand what he would say unto me.

IV. (v. 12b) Why then are ye thus altogether vain (stubborn)? You have these things, why don't you keep them?!

A. Be saved.

Will you wait until it's too late? lose interest or die?

B. Purse God aggressively.

Will you trust God for yourself? Will you run from the bear? the lion?

Cry out to God for yourself. I beseech you, shew me they glory (Ex. 33:18). Will you write out your standards?

Exodus 33:18 And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.

C. Be strong in the grace of God (II Tim. 2:1).

2 Timothy 2:1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

You can't impress God.

Why are you not resting in His grace? trusting His love? thanking Him for His chastisements? Why are you worrying?

purpose: to hate the way you are and to love the way He is!

To identify the root of the problems of prayerlessness [self-dependence (Col. 4:2), **powerlessness** [lovelessness], **peacelessness** [unalignment], **contention** [pride (Pro. 13:10)]

Colossians 4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

Proverbs 13:10 Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.

November 11, 2001

that's the problem: depart from evil!

“That’s Just the Way I Am”

Job 28:28; Proverbs 8:13; Isaiah 47:10

Job 28:28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

Proverbs 8:13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Isaiah 47:10 For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me.

I. “That’s just the way I AM.” (TJ-WIA)

- A. “That’s just the way I AM.” I don’t do spinach; read my Bible; attend church all the time, sing out at singing times; pray for missionaries regularly, for our leaders, without ceasing; don’t get up early on Sunday mornings to prepare my heart with a good season of prayer and Bible time; get places ahead of time, come early to fellowship and communicate eagerness; have people over to my house; ask my boss how I’m doing; talk pleasant around the house if I don’t feel like it; eat dinner with my family; trust God; exercise; clean my house

Have I left anybody out? I’ve tried not to! Would you like to declare your idol?

B. title; purpose; pray

C. Pro. 8:13; The fear of the LORD is to hate what you are, and to depart from it!

1. There is only One who is to say “I AM” – in all areas (Ps. 10:4). He is. (We either are becoming or we aren’t!)

Psalm 10:4 The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.

2. We are to be changing. This is our great need, privilege, and blessing – to be changed into His image!
3. We have a strong tendency to define reality in terms of ourselves – this is called pride. We have a strong tendency to make judgment calls which are not ours to make – this is called arrogancy. We have a strong tendency to satisfy our natural desires – this is called the evil way. We have a strong tendency to communicate our distorted reality – this is called the forward mouth. In Pro. 8:13, Wisdom says, God says, that He hates these things. This is just the way He is! The fear of the LORD is a profound and intense awareness of God’s absolute holiness and hatred of sin (Dr. Strohhenn).

- D. A man who has counseled many people for years writes, “I have found that 90% of the time, the problems people describe to me are not their real problems” (Cymbala pg. 127).

Our root problem is not: not getting along, inattention in church, over-eating, excessive and improper tv practices; prayerlessness, powerlessness, peacelessness, contention – these are signs.

Our root problem is pride (not being satisfied with Him), self will (I), engrained – habitual sin, “just the way I am”, arrogancy – not respecting jurisdiction; and the evil way-sin nature.

- E. Let’s look at just the way we are – the problem – what is called the evil way in Pro. 8:13), and then at the solution.

II. Here is “just the way you are” [, stripped of façade: corrupted passion, proud, blind, under the wrath of God] (**Col. 3:5-9**)!

Colossians 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

6 For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

A. Colossians 3:5 contains a list of our “members” – bodily expressions of what we are **naturally**.

1. fornication (**porneia**): whole range of immorality; indulge unlawful lust; e.g., living together before married; pre-marital inappropriate involvement, looking at immodest magazine, catalogues, books, billboards, activity in public, on tv
2. uncleanness (**akayarsia**): filth, any form of impurity – demonic connection; e.g., thinking impure thoughts, turning over in your mind
3. inordinate affection (**payos**): depraved passion – not just thought, strong coveting desire; e.g., a blackness of countenance (emotional)
4. evil concupiscence: longing, especially for what is forbidden, unholy desire;
Are you getting the picture? corrupted desires/lusts; “Judge Judy” shows, wrestling, news, Unshackled (once!);
5. covetousness: greediness, fraudulency, avariance
which is idolatry: substitute reality, deifying of self and other created things; e.g., wanting something not yours; even twisting the warranty to fit what you want.

Covetousness is the summary sin of the ten commandments, which slew Paul (Rom. 7:7-11), as pride and arrogancy correspond to the first commandment addressing the root sin.

Romans 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

8 But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead.

9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

10 And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.

11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.

- B. For which things sake the **wrath of God** cometh (Col. 3:6). This is what God **connects** with what we are.
- C. Colossians 3:8,9 identifies more of what we are (bent to): anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication, and **lying**.

III. The fear of the LORD [which is the beginning of wisdom] is to hate evil – what you are! [Evil is pride, arrogancy, the evil way, and the forward mouth.] (Pro. 8:13).

- A. Our great need is to see, confess, repent, be washed clean of what we are (Is. 59:2)!

Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Reform (or “standards”) is not what’s needed - salvation is what’s needed.

Not a change in standards or practices, but a change in heart and in a personal relationship with God through Christ is what’s needed. Do you know how to become a Muslim? Pray the kalima! Do you know how to become a Christian? Confess your sin, repent of it, believe that the blood of Christ will wash away your sins.

- B. Believe that Christ is God and that He died in your place and rose again, and that through Him you may have a personal relationship with God! He will give you a new heart; and He will fill your heart with His Holy Spirit of wisdom!
- C. And then you can begin being changed into His image daily learning more about Him, living that truth, and having Christ – Wisdom being formed in you!

Applications (how to live this truth)

- A. Humble yourself, and be saved.
- B. Mortify your members – what you are naturally
- C. Begin to say, “That’s just the way Christ is!”, and I submit. Recognize that the fear of the Lord and pride are opposites! “He must increase, but I must decrease.”

Daily, and constantly, humble yourself under the mighty presence of God. Pray for humility and discernment not to confuse self in you for Christ in you. Stubbornness test: Jms. 3:13-18.

James 3:13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

- D. Get excited about Christ – wisdom being formed in you.
- E. Get excited about Christ – wisdom being formed in those around you!
- F. See prayerlessness (Col. 4:2-4) (, powerlessness, peacelessness, and contention) as symptoms of the deeper problem of self-dependence and pride. These blockfulness of the Spirit of wisdom. Begin to recognize your “without ceasing” need to pray. If the church isn’t praying, who is?! (Let’s begin praying more on Wednesdays before services and on Saturday evenings.)
Colossians 4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;
3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:
4 That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.
- G. Rejoice at being humbled, at the opportunity to change.
- H. Follow Job’s example of fearing the Lord and eschewing evil (Job 1:1).

purpose: to lead us to respond in wisdom (Job 28:28) and to bring us to repentance

[of our own ways and to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21)

Acts 20:21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

September 16, 2001

to depart from evil is understanding

Except Ye Repent Ye Shall All Likewise Perish

[as others have done before us, and eternally]

[Repent and Be Converted (Acts 3:19)]

Luke 13:1-5 [; Ps. 27; Lk. 10:25-37; Job 28:28]

Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Luke 13:1 There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

2 And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things?

3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

4 Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem?

5 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Psalms 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

3 Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.

4 One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.

5 For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

6 And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.

7 Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

8 When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.

9 Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

10 When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.

11 Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.

12 Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.

13 I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Luke 10:25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?

27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

29 But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

30 And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

31 And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

32 And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,

34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

Job 28:28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

[intro: when was the last time you repented?

I. The World Trade Center and the Pentagon were attacked (9/11/01).

- A. Read obituary of Tuesday's events.
- B. over

2

II. How are we to respond (Job 28:28)?

A. Show mercy (Lk. 10:25-37).

1. pray for the living, for authorities, this nation (I Tim. 2:1).

1 Timothy 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

2. give blood, help physically (Lk. 10:33,37).

Luke 10:33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,

37 And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

3. intensify witnessing to rescue from a worse tragedy (Rev. 20:15).

Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

4. weep with those who weep (Rom. 12:15; Job 2:11).

Romans 12:15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

Job 2:11 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came every one from his own place; Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite: for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him.

5. **pursue justice** (Rom. 12:19; Job 19:29). Δ child expert OPR – teach kindness so kids don't bully and this won't happen again! “Vengeance is mine,” through cg, not vigilantism. Notice Romans and Job. We are guilty of worse: our sins crucified the precious, perfect Son of God.

Romans 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Job 19:29 Be ye afraid of the sword: for wrath bringeth the punishments of the sword, that ye may know there is a judgment.

- B. **Fear and trust God** (Ps. 27). [tonight; Job 28:28 to respond rightly is to respond in wisdom.]
1. Death need not be feared if God be trusted.
 2. fear of the Lord: a profound veneration of God; a willingness to bow to Him/His administration; to love and trust Him though cloudy darkness be around Him; to know and commit to Him.

3

- C. **Depart from evil** (Lk. 13:1-5).

1. “Except ye **repent** ye shall all likewise perish.”
“On God's side the only foundation for forgiveness is the shed blood of Jesus Christ. But for man's part, the only basis for salvation is repentance! Repentance is the master link in the chain that binds the soul to God. Repentance is the doorway through which man must enter if he is to walk the straight and narrow. Repentance is the strong cord that must be woven into the fabric of our lives, without which all other Christian graces unravel. Christ has declared to all men for all time, ‘Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.’” (Phil Shuler Frontline 7/8/01)

a. Hear **Solomon** (I Kings 8:46-48).

I Kings 8:46 If they sin against thee, (for there is no man that sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captives unto the land of the enemy, far or near;
47 Yet if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and repent, and make supplication unto thee in the land of them that carried them captives, saying, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness;
48 And so return unto thee with all their heart, and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies, which led them away captive, and pray unto thee toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name:

b. **Hear the prophets (Is. 55:7; Jer. 7:3; Ez. 33:11).**

Isaiah (55:7): “Let the wicked forsake his ways”; Jeremiah (7:3): “Amend your ways and your doings”; Ezekiel (33:11): Turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways.” “Without exception, the prophets based a message of hope upon a forsaking of sin.”

Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Jeremiah 7:3 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place.

Ezekiel 33:11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

4

c. **Hear John the Baptist (Mt. 3:2).** [who confronted spiritual apathy and ritualism, the form of religion (Mt. 3:2): “Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Put away your apathy; your spiritual laziness and yawning; your excitement about lust, about movies and other Hollywood fare.

Matthew 3:2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

- d. **Hear Christ Himself (Mt. 4:17; Lk. 13:5).** [The One Who came to earth to bear glad tidings preaches as His first message (Mt. 4:17): “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand,” and then continued to say (Lk. 13:5): “Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say,

Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Luke 13:5 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all

likewise perish.

- e. **Hear the apostles (Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30; Rev. 2:5, 16, 21, 22; 3:3, 19)** [beginning with Peter who instructed those who at Pentecost inquired the way to God (Acts 2:38): “Repent and be baptized;” and then at the gate Beautiful (Acts 3:19): “Repent, and be converted that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord” – in order that there may come epoch-making periods of spiritual revival and refreshment from the presence of the Lord (KWu)! Paul’s teaching the commandment of God at Mar’s Hill was no less emphatic, when he proclaimed (Acts 17:30): “[God] commandeth all men everywhere to repent.” And listen to the writer to the churches (Rev. 2:5): “Remember [Ephesians – fulness people] from whence ye are fallen, and repent; or else I will come unto you quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.” To Pergamas (2:16): “Repent: or else I will come unto thee quickly.” To Thyatira (2:21,22): “I gave her space to repent of her fornication, and she repented not.” To Sardis (3:3): “Remember how thou hast received and, heard, and hold fast, and repent.” And to Laodicea, and all the churches, (3:19): “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and repent.”

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ

for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

5

Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

Revelation 2:5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Revelation 2:16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

Revelation 2:21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

Revelation 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Revelation 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

2. To repent is “to regret (be sorry for) what we have done amiss, and to do so no more.” (MH)

The worse thing you could do to your enemy or friend is to lead them into carnality and immorality. Hollywood has hurt us more than the terrorists, and we give Hollywood the best seat in our living rooms!

3. Of what are we to repent?

a. unbelief: rejection of Christ (Jn. 3:16-18) and the root of all evil

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

- b. **our own ways: anger, bitterness, resentment; laziness, indolence; apathy and spiritual yawning (Mal. 1:13);** self-seeking (self esteem, gratification, exaltation); unfaithfulness to God's house and service; unbridled lust-watching "Hollywood" movies and tv of impurity and violence; constantly ingesting the virus of compromise with programs like "So You Want to Be a Millionaire"
 Malachi 1:13 Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD.

III. When was the last time you repented?

Is repentance a constant drink of yours?

The power of the gospel is unleashed when we repent.

purpose: to move us to lead those around us to Christ in 2002 (Gal. 4:19)

Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

January 13, 2002

[Why we need to lead other to Christ in 2002]

We need Christ and this world needs leadership in 2002

I Chose Out Their Way and Sat Chief

Job 29:12-25 (v. 25)

Job 29:12 Because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him.

13 The blessing of him that was ready 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 judgment was as a robe and a diadem.

15 I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame.

16 I was a father to the poor: and the cause which I knew not I searched out.

17 And I brake the jaws of the wicked, and plucked the spoil out of his teeth.

18 Then I said, I shall die in my nest, and I shall multiply my days as the sand.

19 My root was spread out by the waters, and the dew lay all night upon my branch.

20 My glory was fresh in me, and my bow was renewed in my hand.

21 Unto me men gave ear, and waited, and kept silence at my counsel.

22 After my words they spake not again; and my speech dropped upon them.

23 And they waited for me as for the rain; and they opened their mouth wide as for the latter rain.

24 If I laughed on them, they believed it not; and the light of my countenance they cast not down.

25 I chose out their way, and sat chief, and dwelt as a king in the army, as one that comforteth the mourners.

intro: every verse in the Bible is on leadership! sum of our responsibility (Ec. 12:13,14; Mt. 22:36): delighting in God and influencing others to delight

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Matthew 22:36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

- I. We need Christ in 2002 (Col. 1:9-20).** [to redeem and save us, to forgive us of our sins and to clear our consciences; to reveal God to us; to have that something greater than ourselves to which we can attach; to know ultimate truth and reality; to know where we came from, where we are going, and why we are here; to hold us together, to keep us from cracking up; to give us direction and guidance; to fill us with love, joy, peace; to reconcile us to God (Col. 1:9-20)!]

Colossians 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

II. Others need Christ in 2002, and Job shows us how to lead them to Christ (vs. 12-25).

- A. Job saw the needs around him (vs. 12-17).** He saw the poor (without hope) that cried, the fatherless (lonely), him that was ready to perish (strengthless), the widow; need for justice and judgment; giving understanding-teaching/training, vigor-locomotion; destitution; need for understanding; need to confront evil, those corrupting others.

We have the same needs around us today: much hopelessness, despair, loneliness, disconnectedness; strengthlessness, tiredness; friends, neighbors, family, co-workers hurtling to hell on the fast tract; fellow-Christians discouraged and depressed; many around us wasting time in frivolity and games, merely living lives of consumption; many needing help and vision → leadership! The world needs someone with vision and excitement about



God (“enthusiasm”); not about sports, making money, entertainment;
Ez. 22:30 – will you be that one?

B. Job saw his influence (**leadership**) (v. 25).

1. [Job] chose out their way and sat chief (**leader**), first, ruler, head principal

“No matter what way of theirs I chose to go in, I had **influence**.”

Job was what he should have been and what all are to be (1:1,8)! Job did not violate Pro. 25:6,7; Lk. 14:10. Δ when you enter a room, “who’s leading?” “is it going right way?”

Proverbs 25:6 Put not forth thyself in the presence of the king, and stand not in the place of great men:

7 For better it is that it be said unto thee, Come up hither; than that thou shouldst be put lower in the presence of the prince whom thine eyes have seen.

Luke 14:10 But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee.

2. [Job] dwelt as a king in the army,

“I lived among them as a king lives among his army in that they followed my **direction**.”

A king has a goal, plan and schedule; he motivates and disciplines his troops – versus being served with delicacies (Mt. 11:7,8). Our goal is (huge and we share it – it is the basis of our soul communion!) “the salvation of souls”; i.e., to lead people to Christ that they may glorify and rejoice in God! Our plan is to live godly lives before them, ministering the saving word of God to them, as we love and serve them. Our schedule is to do this immediately and constantly!

Matthew 11:7 And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?

8 But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses.

3. [Job led] as one that comforteth the mourners.

“I [had compassion on, consoled, and] **encouraged** those whom I led as my **primary leadership tool** [way of meeting the needs of those about me, whose way I chose].” Heb. 3:13]

Hebrews 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

C. Job showed how to **lead** (vs. 12-25). Job saw the needs of those around him, and he met those needs by leadership (Gal. 6:2)!

Galatians 6:2 Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Spiritual Leadership by Oswald Sanders, is perhaps the classic on leadership. In it Sanders lists seven essential qualities, followed by

nine “more essentials,” and proceeded by one “master principle” of leadership. Job shows us nine!

1. (vs. 12,13) Job had a **servant’s heart** (Mt. 20:29; I K. 12:7). He did not first of all serve those who had something to pay back to him, but he delivered the poor that cried (Lk. 14:12-14)! He was not mercenary. He was not self-serving. He was motivated by meeting needs/serving others. O. Sanders calls this (with Spirit-filling) the master principle of leadership.

Matthew 20:29 And as they departed from Jericho, a great multitude followed him.

1 Kings 12:7 And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever.

Luke 14:12 Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee.

13 But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind:

14 And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

2. (v. 14) Job consistently **did right** (Gen. 18:19; I K. 2:2,3). and he was known for it. Righteousness here does not speak of the garments of salvation (Is. 61:10), but of being guided by right in his leadership (fulfillment of obligation). He would do right even regarding the poor and weak, and he consistently sided with right over the weak or the strong.

Genesis 18:19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

1 Kings 2:2 I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man;

3 And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself:

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

The two biggest little words are “do right.” Do right if the stars fall! Not according to what seems right to you (Pro. 14:12) but according to what is right with God. The best check on this is a godly third party (I Cor. 6). Interestingly, the etymological root of right is “straight,” “to lead straight,” “direct,” “rule.” A man who does right will rule – he will lead! But, beware leading by your sense of right, what seems right to you, which is arrogating and leads to contention, rather than true leading (i.e., what is right to God).

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

“So good an opinion we have of our own sentiments and practices, that it is very difficult to believe what a reprover says of our conduct; and we are as ready to assent to all the language of flattery. We set up our own opinions in religion and philosophy as the tests of orthodoxy and truth; and we are prone to judge every practice of other men either a duty or a crime, which we think would be a crime or a duty in us, though their circumstances are vastly different from our own. This humour prevails sometimes to such a degree, that we should make our own taste and inclinations the standard by which to judge of every dish of meat that is set upon the table, every book in a library, every employment, study, and business of life, as well as every recreation.”
” (Logic by Isaac Watts, p. 196)

4

Job put on doing right as a man in mourning puts on a garment and doesn't take it off all day long. It was visible to those about him, and it covered him completely. “These are an outward clothing to appear in before men, and should be shown forth with meekness and wisdom, and should be continually exercised and constantly performed” (Col. 3:10, 12, 14).

Colossians 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

3. (v. 15) Job **equipped others to succeed (Eph. 4:11).**

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

“There was a law in Israel against putting a stumbling block before the blind, and a curse pronounced on those that caused them to wander out of their way; which implied that they ought to remove all impediments out of their way, and should lead, guide, and direct them in the right way.” This can be done by good advice and counsel. Yet this does not say that Job became their head. He let them make their own decisions and served as a helper to their vision and implementation.

“Besides let us consider that the great God, our common maker, has never given one man's understanding a legal and rightful sovereignty to determine truths for others, at least, after they are past the state of childhood or minority. No single person, how learned, and wise, and great soever, or whatsoever natural, or civil, or ecclesiastical relation he may have to us, can claim this dominion over our faith. St. Paul the apostle, in his private capacity, would not do it; nor hath an inspired man any such authority, until he makes his divine commission appear. Our Saviour himself tells the Jews, that if he had not done such wondrous works among them, they had not sinned in disbelieving his doctrines, and refusing him for the Messiah. No bishop or presbyter, no synod or council, no church or assembly of

men, since the days of inspiration, hath power derived to them from God to make creeds or articles of faith for us, and impose them upon our understandings. We must all act according to the best of our own light, and the judgment of our own consciences, using the best advantages which Providence hath given us, with an honest and impartial diligence to inquire and search out the truth; for every one of us must give an account of himself to God. To believe as the church or the court believes is but a sorry and a dangerous faith; this principle would make more Heathens than Christians, and more Papists than Protestants; and perhaps lead more souls to hell than to heaven; for our Saviour himself has plainly told us, that if the blind will be led by the blind, they must both fall into the ditch.” (Logic by Isaac Watts, p. 218,219)

[Δ World quarterback](#)

4. (v. 16) **Job first understood** (Pro. 3:5,6; Ps. 27:14; Phil. 2:3,4).
Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Psalms 27:14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

He was a father to the poor, a leader to those who needed leadership. And he took the time and energy to first understand, and wait. It is not uncommon for men to be confronted with a problem, wrestle with it, get antsy, and impatiently come to a conclusion before it is plain enough, and then move on, right or wrong – and then stubbornly hold to that position – right or wrong.

[Δ His wife had a flat, all he had was an over-sized tire; he was busy; he made a decision, he put it on; she drove with it, embarrassed; finally, enough people shamed him, he changed it.](#) Inter-personal relationship concussions aren't usually fixed so easily. We confuse character for poor judgment and stubbornness.

“Keep your mind always open to receive truth, and never set limits to your improvements. Be always ready to hear what may be objected even against your favourite opinions, and those which have had longest possession of your assent. And if there should be any new and uncontrollable evidence brought against these old or beloved sentiments, do not wink your eyes fast against the light, but part with any thing for the sake of truth: remember, when you overcome an error, you gain truth; the victory is on your side, and the advantages are all your own.

I confess these grand principles of belief and practice, which universally influence our conduct both with regard to this life and the

life which is to come, should be supposed to be well settled in the first years of our studies; such as the existence and providence of God, the truth of Christianity, the authority of Scripture, the genuine rules of morality, etc. We should avoid a light fluttering genius, ever ready to change our foundations, and to be carried about with every wind of doctrine. To guard against which inconveniences, we should labour with earnest diligence and fervent prayer, that our most fundamental and important points of belief and practice may be established upon just grounds or reason and Scripture, when we

6

come to years of discretion, and fit to judge for ourselves in such important points. Yet since it is possible that the folly or prejudices of younger years may have established persons in some mistaken sentiments, even in very important matters, we should always hold ourselves ready to receive any new advantage toward the direction or improvement even of our established principles, as well as opinions of lesser moment.”

(Logic by Isaac Watts, p. 240,241)

5. (v. 17) Job **confronted** evil. Part of a leader’s job description is confronting evil.

“Be not afraid of their faces” (Jer. 1:8).

Δ Practice with telemarketers.

Esteem others better, but do right.

Jeremiah 1:8 Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

6. (v. 17) Job was **content** in his circumstances (Phil. 4:11,12).

Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

7. (vs. 19,20) Job **refreshed** himself continually (Job 29:3-5; Ps. 1:1,2).

Job first of all refreshed himself daily in the Lord (Ps. 1:2,3). This is the first and most important of all the responsibilities of the leader: to let the Word (and grace) of Christ dwell in you richly, to be filled with all the fulness of God from which all blessing flows. This has been dealt with much. Are you practicing daily meditation in God’s Word? Also suggested by this verse is physical recreation. Consider Richard Baxter’s 1665 thoughts (p.

Job 29:3 When his candle shined upon my head, and when by his light I walked through darkness;

4 As I was in the days of my youth, when the secret of God was upon my tabernacle;

5 When the Almighty was yet with me, when my children were about me;

Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

8. (vs. 21-23) Job led with **words** (Job 4:3; Acts 11:14; Jn. 6:63; Col. 1:27-29; Gal. 4:19; Pro. 25:11). Man's greatest need is Christ – salvation from sin, self: world, flesh, devil; despair, hopelessness, vanity. Man is led to Christ by words – the gospel, words of the person and word of Christ, His goodness and greatness, His wisdom, omnipotence, and love. Many Christians need encouraged in the Lord, and it is our privilege and responsibility to lead them to the Lord with words, “words whereby [they] shall be saved!”

Job 4:3 Behold, thou hast instructed many, and thou hast strengthened the weak hands.

Acts 11:14 Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me

mightily.

Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

Proverbs 25:11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.

9. (v. 24) Job was **lighthearted** [and condescended] (Pro. 17:22).

Proverbs 17:22 A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Δ Saunders p. 67 “There are things in these sermons that may produce smiles, but what of that? The preacher is not quite sure about a smile being a sin, and at any rate he thinks it less a crime to cause a momentary laughter than a half-hour of profound slumber.” (Charles Spurgeon)

III. Why we need to lead others to Christ in 2002.

- A. God said to, and His glory calls for it (Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; I Pet. 3:15; II Tim. 4:2).

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

8

B. Others' blessing requires it.

1. Hell awaits (Heb. 9:27).

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

2. Men around us are crying for hope, significance, acceptance, love, and satisfaction and the only true meeting of these needs is in Christ. While we acknowledge that many want gratification outside of Christ, it remains true that we can and must point to the only true satisfaction of these needs – Christ!

C. Job has shown us how (Jms. 4:17).

James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

D. He that wins souls is wise (Pro. 11:30; Dan. 12:3). Commit to this in 2002!

Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

Daniel 12:3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

(E.) We need Christ in 2002, and this world needs leadership to Christ in 2002.

- ① It seems that responsibility is given to the more mature Christian to watch out for the weaker (the same weaker brother principles we learned from Romans) – although it could be argued that we are all “weak” in some areas of our lives and are all the “weaker brother” to some degree (let each esteem other...).

If we see that someone is “blind” in an area, shouldn’t we put extra energy into helping them (removing the stumbling blocks)? If we are causing that person to be blind (maybe because we are unwilling to help them or unwilling to explain things) – are we “cursed”?

I feel, to a degree, that you have caused me to be “blind” and have set stumbling blocks in my way.

I also think it is time to appoint a “godly third party” to resolve the problems between DLS, my husband and myself. When you told me it was “unwise” to talk to DLS about the problems, you made me dependent on you (and God) to resolve things. When you made it a matter of “loyalty” that I not talk to a third party about these things, you reinforced my dependence upon you to resolve the problem. So now, three and a half years later, with the problems still unresolved, I am requesting that you appoint someone (a board member) to help me resolve these things. It will be an easy matter to bring them up to speed on how David feels – I still have the letters in my computer. It will be even easier to bring them up to speed on actions you have taken.

- ② I’m not sure this is true. In an authority relationship He has given the authority the right to determine some truth (outside of clear cut scriptural principles) to those under him. [Mr. Watts changes the flavor of this statement though when he changes truth to faith. Is he using these interchangeably?] He goes on to say that “we must all act according to the best of our own light...” but in an authority situation we cannot act according to our own light, we must act in accordance to the authority’s unless it violates a clear-cut scriptural principle.

- ③ I loved this quote... do you remember our discussion of what a reasonable person was... one who was willing to review new “input” as it came along and review their thinking and incorporate new “truth”? You took this a step further a few weeks ago when you said that an unreasonable person was sinning (I don’t think you used that word, but that was the flavor).

Humble yourselves

purpose: to hate arrogance in yourself [Dan. 4:27; I Pet. 5:6; I Sam. 2:3]

[Be godly, but do not act as God

pray fervently because blindness accompanies arrogance; if you can leave here

his morning seeing arrogance in yourself, then God has been good to you

Daniel 4:27 Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity.

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

1 Samuel 2:3 Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogance come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

April 2, 2000

Arrogance

Plan, live for self, accept credit, judge

Why Do Ye Persecute Me As God?

Job 19 (v. 22); Proverbs [14:26;] 8:13

[I Sa. 2:3; Pro. 8:13; Isa. 13:11; Jer. 48:29; 200x]

Proverbs 14:26 In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.

I Sam 2:3 Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogance come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

Proverbs 8:13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Isaiah 13:11 And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

Jeremiah 48:29 We have heard the pride of Moab, (he is exceeding proud) his loftiness, and his arrogance, and his pride, and the haughtiness of his heart.

intro: arrogance: acting as God, assuming (claiming) God’s prerogative (exclusive right)

3 Heb. terms: mount up (1342), be lofty (1361), be high (7311)

arrogate to yourself; arrogate: claim or seize without justification, assume; impression of superiority manifested in an overbearing manner or presumptuous claims; evidences: high look, stiff neck: posture I Sa. 2:3 same term used properly in reference to God (Ex. 15:7; Mic. 5:4): majestic or arrogant; elevation or haughtiness; high or proud; God glorifies that which is most glorious and loves that which is most lovable

Ex. 15:77 And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee: thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble.

Mic. 5:4 And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.

Arrogance is the ultimate sin in that it replaces God with self, and it is the first sin in that it began in the garden.

Arrogance, which God hates (Pro. 6:16,17), is the opposite of humility which God loves.

Proverbs 6:16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

I. A Story [Anecdote] of Arrogance (Daniel 4) [Acts 12:21-23; Job 19]

Acts 12:21 And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.

22 And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.

23 And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.them;

II. Job's Argument Against Arrogance

A. vs. 1-7 How long will ye (arrogantly) vex my soul?

[pronouncing judgments against me inconsistent with God

They did not understand or speak of God the thing of God that is right (42:7). Wherein?

Job 42:7 And it was so, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath.

1. hurt His child without help to Christlikeness
2. did not help bear his burden
3. withdrew when he needed them most
4. did not answer his call for help
5. misjudged him
6. magnified themselves against him
7. were implacable in their blindness, incessantly reproaching him

B. vs. 8-20 God is chastening me severely for His unrevealed, hidden purposes.

1. What doth the Lord require, but justice, mercy, and faith (Micah 6:8)?
Mt. 23:23
Micah 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Mt. 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

2. People around us are suffering.
 - a. This can be a difficult call. We are not dealing exhaustively with it.
 - b. Consider how-to-treat chart on back. Is there unconfessed, unresisted, known sin or weakness?
 - c. Job 6:24-28
Job 6:24 Teach me, and I will hold my tongue: and cause me to understand wherein I have erred.
25 How forcible are right words! but what doth your arguing reprove?
26 Do ye imagine to reprove words, and the speeches of one that is desperate, which are as wind?
27 Yea, ye overwhelm the fatherless, and ye dig a pit for your friend.
28 Now therefore be content, look upon me; for it is evident unto you if I lie.
3. When God is chastening someone, are we to add our chastisements?
No. General rule, exceptions prove general rule. Are we to rebuke sin – yes.

Ps. 10:2 The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined.

C. v. 21 Have pity, because God is chastening me.

1. Blessed are the merciful (Mat. 5:7).

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

2. Weep with those who weep (Rom. 12:15).

Romans 12:15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

D. vs. 23-27 Why do ye persecute me as God?

1. as though you're God, or as God is persecuting me?

E. vs. 28, 29 Ye should stop persecuting me.

1. v. 28 for conscience sake it is not right (Rom. 13:5)
Romans 13:5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.
2. v. 29 for wrath's sake judgment is coming

III. Acts of Arrogance (Wherein do we assume God's prerogative [Play God]?) 5 prerogatives of God

- A. **persecuting as God** [the suffering, the poor] (Job 19:1-7; 21-22, 28; Job 1:11, 12; 2:5,6; Rom. 13:1) bring, allow hardships into another's life
persecute

Job 1:11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

12 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

Job 2:5 But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

6 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

[does not mean "do not rebuke wrong" II Tim. 4:2

II Tim. 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

II Tim. 2:24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

- B. **planning without God** [humility, predicting the future] (Jms. 4:13-16)
[Pro. 16:9] rule, sovereign **control**

James 4:13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

!! 15 For that ye ought to say, 1) If the Lord will, 2) we shall live, and do this, or that.

16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

Proverbs 16:9 A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

- C. **living for self and not for God (Rom. 12:1,2)** [what do I want vs. what does God want?]
be lived for

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

1. **seeking my will** Jn 5:30

Jn. 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

2. **resenting providence** [seeking to control circumstances, accept His circumstances!] **Acts 9:5**
Acts 9:5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

3. **casting off authority (God's order)** **Ps. 2:3; Pro. 16:10**
Psalms 2:3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

Proverbs 16:10 A divine sentence is in the lips of the king: his mouth transgresseth not in judgment.

4. **refusing to change** **Ps. 55:19** [immutability] [stiff-necked Jer. 17:23, claiming divine attributes: control (sovereignty), wisdom (all-knowing), love (all-loving), acting by passions]
Psalm 55:19 God shall hear, and afflict them, even he that abideth of old. Selah. Because they have no changes, therefore they fear not God.

Jer. 17:23 But they obeyed not, neither inclined their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they might not hear, nor receive instruction.

5. **not being God-centered** **Ps. 10:4; Pro. 1:7 with 8:13**
Psalms 10:4 The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

D. **accepting glory [credit] belonging to God** [and not another

Be glorified

1. **not recognizing source of every good gift (Jms. 1:17)**

2. **taking credit for wisdom, love, strength, building something [Nebuchadnezzar], speaking well [Herod], being in position of authority or respect [Pilate], having riches (Dan. 4:30; Acts 12:21-23; Jn. 19:10, 11; Ps. 75:5-7)**

Daniel 4:30 The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

Acts 12:21 And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.

22 And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.

23 And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

John 19:10 Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?

11 Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

Psalms 75:5 Lift not up your horn on high: speak not with a stiff neck.

6 For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.

7 But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

3. esteeming self as the [ultimate] **problem solver** Pro. 3:5,6

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

a. problem solver (for self, others) Which are we to solve? J. M. Boyer

b. provider, healer Jms 5:15, 16

James 5:15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

c. self-sustainer [breathe: help me – Mic. 5:4] vs. thank you self - sufficiency

Micah 5:4 And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.

E. judging as **God** Jms. 4:10-12 [I Sam. 2:3; Heb. 4:12] which we are not: a sense in which are to judge as God (righteously) and a sense in which we are not: **judge**

James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

11 Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

12 There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

1 Samuel 2:3 Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twinged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

1. **judging beyond law** Jms. 4:10-12

James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

11 Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

12 There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

2. **judging motives** Mt. 7:1

Mt. 7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.

3. **condemning to hell**

4. **ruling in another's jurisdiction** Rom. 14:4; I Pet. 3:1

Romans 14:4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

1 Peter 3:1 Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

[the state over God: witness, worship, train kids]

5. convicting of sin Jn. 16:8

John 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

conclusion

1. Dan. 4:27

Dan. 4:27 Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity.

- a. Break off your sins of arrogance by righteousness (right standing and walking humbly with God).
- b. Show mercy to the poor (in spirit, depressed)

2. Pro. 3:5,6 It is the pride (or arrogancy) of my heart which does not acknowledge Him, rely on Him, seek Him, praise Him, and walk humbly with Him. Ask His help (Gene Dreyer – pgs. 5, 12) and thank Him continually, confess your self-sufficiency and accept His circumstances.

“When the fervent desire of the church is for genuine deep conviction of sin there must be intercessory prayer since God alone can bring sorrow for sin. Only the Holy Spirit can strip man of his self-righteous pretense and leave him bleeding, broken and undone before the holy law.”

“ The vitality of the church will never be restored to the degree it should be until we become desperate enough to give everything back tot he sovereign, holy God. We must give to him unqualified permission to do with us as He will.”

3. Hate the proud look (Pro. 6:16,17) and humble yourself under the mighty hand of God (1 Pet. 5:6)

Proverbs 6:16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

Proverbs 8:13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

**God's "Physicians Desk Reference for Treating the Suffering"
(I Thes. 5:14)**

1. brethren: born again brothers and sisters
exhort - come alongside, encourage
2. unruly: insubordinate, unarranged, out of order
warn - place on the mind, caution or reprove gently
3. feeble-minded: fainthearted, little-spirited
comfort - encourage, cheer up
4. weak: strengthless
support - help, hold firmly to
5. all men
be patient - be long-spirited toward, always keep your temper
6. liars, evil beasts, "unemployed stomachs," sinning, gainsayers, unbelievers
rebuke (sharply or otherwise)(Titus 2:15; 1:13) tell a fault

"Why do ye persecute me as God?" – As if they were in his stead, or had the same power and authority over him, who is a sovereign Being, and does what he pleases with his creatures, and is not accountable to any for what he does; but this is not the case of men, nor are they to imitate God in all things; what he does is not in all things a warrant to do the like, or to be pleaded and followed as a precedent by them; they should be merciful as he is merciful, but they are not to afflict and distress his people because he does, and which he does for wise ends and reasons; for such a conduct is resented by him (Zech. 1:15). God persecuted or pursued and followed Job with one affliction after another, and hunted him as a fierce lion does his prey (Job 10:16), but this was not a reason why they should do the same. Some read the words, "why do ye persecute me as those?" you that profess to be my friends, why do ye persecute me as those before mentioned, as those wicked men? Or "with those", with such reproaches and calumnies; but the original will not bear it.

from John Gill's Expositor

purpose: to describe the goodness of the Lord to display His glory “to clear the fog”
[of unbelief]
[and to see wherein the righteous are glad at the overthrow of the wicked]

November 17, 2000

the benefits of being right with God
Good Shall Come unto Thee
Acquaint how thyself with God
Job 22:15-20

I. Context (22:1-14)

- A. Can a man be profitable unto God (v. 2)? [asked of a man who was profitable unto God] [yes – only in Christ, sufficiency of Christ.]
- B. Is not thy wickedness great (v. 5)? [yes – deceitful and desperately wicked, proud; calls for the wrath of God]
- C. Hast thou marked the old ways which wicked men have trodden (v. 15)? [yes – they were denied good]

II. What good shall come unto thee (Job 22:21-30)?

- 1. (v. 23) [Thou shalt be built up:] **Your spiritual vitality will be restored and renewed** (Gal. 5:22,23) **9-fold fruit of Spirit**
can breath again spiritually Δ air fresher, plants greener

Thou shalt put away iniquity far from thee – lay aside weight and sin which

- 2. (v. 24) [Thou shalt lay up gold as dust:] **You will be refreshed physically in Christ** (I Tim. 6:17; Rom. 8:11) [and the gold of Ophis as the stones of the brook. Beware prosperity gospel.]

3. (v. 25) [The Almighty shall be thy defense (for thee instead of gold):] **God would be for him an invaluable source of treasure** (Ps. 119:57; Phil. 1:21)
 Δ son given one request by father who passed on vast inheritance to slave
 Beware thinking not having is sign of God’s displeasure
4. (v. 26) [Then shalt thou have thy delight (be happy) in the Almighty **You will accomplish end for which God made the world** (Ps. 16:11)!
 non-vanity! purpose! “God is the end of our search for joy, not a means”
 J. Piper
 You will experience calm enjoyment in contemplating His character and government
5. (v. 26b) [[Thou] shalt lift up thy fact unto God:] **Be strong in the grace** (II Tim. 2:1) Δ ML p. 132
6. (v. 27a) [Thou shalt make thy prayer unto Him and He shall hear thee:] **answered prayer** (Jn. 15:7) **worth more than winning Millionaire game**
7. (v. 27b) [and thou shalt pay thy vows:] **You will be enabled to fulfil your responsibilities** (Mt. 19:26; Jn. 15:5)
8. (v. 28a) [Thou shall also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee:] **your goals will be accomplished** (Pro. 13:19)
 [“Thou shalt form a purpose or plan, and it shall not for frustrated..” AB
9. (v. 28b) [and the light shall shine upon thy ways:] **you will live in brightness and order, seeing all you need to see, and not in confusion or darkness** [as in vs. 11, 12 or 10:21,22)(Ps. 69:1,2)
 Beware fear in “valley of shadow”
10. (v. 29) [When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, “There is lifting up”:] **You will be able to help others who are downcast** (II Cor. 1:4)
 [There are so many discouraged people today who need you! Learn the lesson of Rom. 15:4; keeping His precepts.
11. (v. 30) [He (God) shall deliver the island of the innocent (the not innocent person):] **You will be able to see prayer; answered even for the salvation of the lost** (I Tim. 2:4,8)! This is what happened (Job. 12:8)!

III. How does one enjoy this good (Job. 22:21-23)?

- A. Acquaint now thyself with Him (v. 21)

1. (v. 21) **become familiar with Him** [know Him, dwell with, be friends with, be reconciled to; through the two revelations: creation-general- and the word - special]
2. (v. 22) Receive His law **to know his character**
3. (v. 22) Lay up His words **to believe**

B. Be at peace (v. 21)

1. **lay down your arms** [confess and forsake your sins (Pro. 6:16-19), and know (see) Him and see the corruption in your life and turn from it as from vomit.
2. (v. 23) Return unto thy Almighty [initially return to your Maker, and regularly; every Sunday a revival]
3. (v. 23a) [if thou shall] Put away iniquity far from thee.

C. Contemplate His **goodness** and see the **fog cleared**.