

Job had truly suffered, being so severely afflicted by the devil, it was no fiction or parable, rather real history, real men and real places. Job who lost everything, who lost his health, His suffering was so great he lamented the day he was born. Surely comfort from his friends would have been welcome. But they didn't really comfort. But rather accused Him of having some hidden sin. –

Even sincere friends will count what we suffer as only a touch, (or a little thing) yet what we feel is a terrible wound. We Learn **to look at the God of mercies in our affliction**. And there is no better way than **looking to Christ Jesus**, in whose unequalled sorrows every child of God soon learns to forget his own? We have a great High priest full of sympathy (Compassion kindness consideration) A high priest who suffered and was tempted yet was sinless. Then we read the very next verse, *“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16)*. Jobs friends had a wrong view of the truth or an incomplete view..

Our Subject today is mistaken and incomplete views about the Gospel.

Job4:1-2 “And Eliphaz the Temanite answered: Shall one try a word with you, you who are weary? But who can hold back with words?” (Job 4:1-2)

Should we venture a word with you. Will you be offended. Will you mind if we speak. Will you be impatient, and lose patience.

How can we be silent, we cannot hold our tongue any longer.

Eliphaz was the first to talk to Job He was most likely the oldest, the most eloquent, dignified and weighty, yet his words lacked any comfort, his words lacked sympathy. The heart of Job craved the bread of consolation, only to receive the cold stone of argument. The Lost crave the living bread from heaven not stone cold arguments...

Eliphaz has the view **Job is suffering**, therefore **there must be sin in his life**.

The friends of Job have made judgements based on outward appearances. They don't fully understand the situation.

We have already noticed Job's testimony, and how God viewed Him. Have you considered my servant. **He was the Lords**. He was Gods servant – **the highest title possible to mankind**. He was perfect, complete not just a physically alive with breath in his nostrils but spiritually alive. We saw how Jobs devotion to the Lord was unfailing. **Even when satan went to extremes to attack Job and try to**

get Him to curse God. By taking all his prosperity and even his health, But instead, He blessed God He worshiped God demonstrating he was a truly converted man.

Here we see a picture or example of the doctrine of PERSEVERENCE. God will not let him fall. God will sustain Him. There has been a work of GRACE in him; Eternal life has been wrought in Him; he cannot fall completely or eternally, he cannot fail. **Jobs life is a picture of this truth.** Although Job can't really see it; he can't understand it. He doesn't realise he will be an example that the truly redeemed will not fall and will not be lost. Long after He has gone.

The Doctrine of perseverance - To them He has given the precious faith that pertains to all His elect. (the chosen, or those who have had their ears opened, their hearts softened, who have seen and tasted that the Lord is good) **The persons to whom such blessings have been imparted can neither totally, nor finally fall from the state of grace, but they shall certainly persevere in grace to the end and be eternally saved.** Two verses that show this -

John 10:28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;” (Philippians 1:6)

Job is the Lords, Job comes so close to having a breakdown, but he never really denies the Lord. He questions Gods fairness and Justice, but he never denies Him. God in His mercy keeps Him.

Now we look at the three friends of Job that feature in these chapters.

They have formed an alliance against Job. **They are his friends,** poets all of them. **Three very wealth men** like Job Himself; but Job was the greatest in all the east. They would discuss among themselves and discuss Jobs case; many say that they were not converted men themselves.

Yet - **They were men who believed they served God,** but they were self-righteous individuals, they believed in getting Gods favour by their own merit in their doings and works. Also they did not fully understand Job. They didn't agree with Job, **who believed God requires perfection,** and righteousness, and man cannot be perfect because of his sinful state and condition.

Remember in Jobs Day there were no bibles -Job most likely believed what was orally passed on, the truth we see and know from Genesis 3:15 *“And I will put*

enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel." (Genesis 3:15)

What does this promise mean- This promise passed on; **was that a great descendant was coming – who was Christ-** Who would one day come and bring deliverance. Job believed in Grace- He trusted in the Mercy of God. He being, a not too distant relative of Abraham believes Gods promise through that which he heard.

Now this is the attack from his 3 friends. Well, the friends behave more like 3 enemies. One of the lessons we glean is that **Job wasted a lot of time making friends with people who didn't share His love for God.** Now when it comes to a crisis, they turn against Him.

They undermine His relationship with God. They criticize Him speaking false words about Him. – remember - **Satan had said**, and thought, that if he touched Job that Job would curse God – **He thought Job to be a hypocrite** and now he has put these thoughts in his 3 friends minds.

You would think after all they saw that Job had suffered surely, they should have supported him.

The 3 friends say, behold you have instructed many, your words have supported those stumbling. **Job, you have been a very good teacher. But now let us tell you** – the trouble is what Eliphaz speaks is faulty or incomplete. He spoke of the sinfulness of man; **total depravity** does indeed state that all of us are sinners and every part of our being is in some way or another infected with sin.

Yet what Eliphaz is saying is not complete, its faulty simply because it offers no solution, No redemption, no comfort, and no help and gives no hope of the coming redeemer Jesus Christ – who would burse the head of the serpent.

Eliphaz is also the oldest. And claims that they must be wise because they are grey haired. Job 15:10 they are very harsh saying, what do you know Job, that we don't know, you are mistaken, you are weary, and you are troubled. Job, you crumble, you faint. **Surely if you were right with God** shouldn't you have confidence now? but Job, you have no confidence - **are you really sure you hope in God.** Shouldn't your exemplary life give you hope? In other words - Job your ways are not really right that's why you are in this position.

It's almost as they know Job has a relationship with the Lord that they do not have, but they are saying, **Job you are just like us**, no actually you are worse than us because we still have our health and prosperity.

Now in V7 Eliphaz begins to unfold his faulty beliefs. Job **whoever perished being innocent. Since when are the just swept away?** Have you ever seen destruction come upon a just man or a righteous man?

But He is mistaken He has a wrong view, Think of Cain and Abel and righteous, Cain who believed the promise of the redeemer. What did Cain do wrong? Yet out of Jealousy His brother killed Him. Eliphaz and friends would have most likely known and been familiar with this even although the bible was not written these would have been examples, that were passed on.

Eliphaz speaking for the friends as well, In their minds they say, **we have been reasonably righteous**, and God has prospered us. *We now know from scripture that God is not pleased with reasonable righteous lukewarm righteousness or cold righteousness, but we are to be perfect and entire growing in this grace.*

Eliphaz can't see this- **The thinking is** - What is this Job, always saying, Fear God and run from evil. Hope in God – **where is your hope now Job.** Either you never had true grace working in you, or that which you claimed to have was only hypocritical, only an appearance but not reality. It seems that you have slavish fear, a fear of punishment, of wrath and damnation. **Yet we know this was not true** - Gods testimony of Job was that he was perfect whole and complete.

But they don't hear, **they say** - Job look at the condition you are in, look at your family and your wealth, you are now in poverty and you are almost at the point of death. **This proves you are under the punishment of God.**

We need to avoid this error of Eliphaz that if I'm healthy and have a measure of prosperity – If outwardly I'm doing well, God must be pleased with me. If I'm blessed and have goods, I must be right with God... Let's consider and look to what scripture says- Even the wicked seem to flourish. **This was Jerimiah's complaint.** *Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why are those happy who deal so treacherously?* Jer 12:1 Even in the Psalms David is grieved. *How long oh Lord, will the wicked flourish How long will the wicked triumph.* Just because they flourish and triumph, we can't say they are the Lords. We can't say they are saved.

Abundance of things is never an indication- *“And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.””* (Luke 12:15)

Rather the saved ones are the ones who can say, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. He has redeemed us. We have peace with the Living God, It's a Joy to Serve Him. *“for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”* (Romans 14:17)

God being pleased with us, or kind and compassionate to us **has nothing to do with our performance our behaviour.** While we were still sinners He died for us. It has to do with His tender mercy. It is always **His goodness not and never our goodness.** Salvation and acceptance is never earned. Rather salvation is a free gift by grace through faith. *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* (Romans 5:8)

Job knew this, or saw this from a long way off, saw this by faith, believed in the coming redeemer. Job believed sinful man could not be accepted by God. Eliphaz is annoyed, we read he says - do you think God would expect so much from mortal men who live in houses of clay. **Really, he is arguing that God cannot expect Righteousness from human beings.** That's the lines of his thinking.

Isn't That the nature, and thinking of the liberal Eliphaz's of today. **But how faulty it is....** The very reason Jesus Christ Came was to redeem the unrighteous and make the sons of Righteousness. **By one mans obedience many will be made righteous.** Romans 5:19. We know that only those washed and cleansed of sin and unrighteousness shall be in heaven.

Eliphaz was partial in his interpretation of the vision and all he said: he saw it as being for Job; but overlooked its application to himself. This is such a common fault when hearing Gods Word. **We hear for others but not for ourselves.** If only so and so was here this word would help them, but we are to hold the mirror of God's word up to our selves. We must avoid this great error of Eliphaz and watch we don't act like that ourselves.

Eliphaz had no bible it was not yet written. Thankfully today we have our bibles – a more sure word of Prophecy. *“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:”* (2 Peter 1:19)

God's word is our final authority that settles all matters with finality. It doesn't matter what the Friends say or what the world says, it doesn't matter the earthly opinions, or errors of Eliphaz and his friends. **Unless a man is born again there is no hope of deliverance.** Unless a man is a new creation in Christ Jesus born of God he cannot enter Eternal life.

I cannot close without showing you these wonderful truths, this eternal life, that you may know Him. **This is what is most valuable, more valuable than anything this earth could ever offer.** "Many Christians have only a little in hand or in life, but they have much in hope. They have little on earth, but they have unsearchable wealth in Heaven!

For the Christian This present world is the worst state they will ever be in. All beyond death is bright, perfect and glorious! **But for the sinner** this world is the best they will ever have.

The Christian's hope is full of both freedom and possession.

- freedom from all the pains which we now experience, both in mind and body;
- all the fears which now torment, and trouble, and harass us day by day;
- all the sins which are now our plague, disease, and torment;

Oh, what a mercy it will be to enjoy such freedom, and to possess the inward knowing that **we will be with Him forever where we shall have** ▪ perfect, settled, and everlasting peace. ▪ sinless atmosphere, no presence of any sin what so ever. ▪ permanent, perpetual, and uninterrupted joy; ▪ the presence and enjoyment of Jesus, we shall see Him, be with Him, and be like Him.

O glorious hope! By grace you are saved." Because God is gracious, therefore sinful men are forgiven, converted, purified, and saved. It is not because of anything in them, or that ever can be in them, that they are saved; but because of the boundless love, goodness, pity, compassion, mercy, and grace of God.

Tarry a moment, Be still and consider the pure river of water of life, as it proceeds out of the throne of God and of the Lamb!

Are you thirsty for this water? Believe the Gospel and repent of your sins. Come and you shall be satisfied.