

Job #18 (Chapters 20 and 21)

Look at Job's response in chapter 21- Especially responding to 20:4, 5
Can you tell someone's position in visible church but outward condition?

I. First, Let us Look at Verses 1 - 6

- A. In this speech Job doesn't talk too much about his present condition
- B. V. 2 – Maybe saying friends would be comforted by his sayings
- C. V. 3- A little dig by Job- After he speaks his friends can resume mocking
- D. V. 4 – Job asks question “Is my complaint with man”?
 - 1. He could look at it that way because of Chaldeans and Sabbeans
 - 2. No matter what happens good or bad the source of all is God
 - a. Like Paul Job doesn't attribute cause to Satan(13:3; 2 Cor. 12:7, 8)
 - b. Even archangels are careful in dealing with Satan (Jude 9, 10)
- E. Also in v. 4 – Job like other believers complains – Psalm 102; Ps. 55:2
- F. V. 5- Sometimes the providences of God are such they even astonish
 - 1. Judgment on Tyre- Ez. 28:19; Israel's abandonment (Jer. 2:12, 13)

II. Then Let Us Look at Verses 7 - 13

- A. Job in this chapter seems to say two different things (7-13 w/ 16-34)
 - 1. Teaches us no hard and fast rules of how righteous and wicked fare
- B. Verse 7- Job asks three progressive questions about Wicked prospering
 - 1. As opposed to Zophar (20:4, 5) – Wicked enjoy long prosperity
 - 2. Job can appeal to evidence of senses – What he says in true
- C. Verse 8- They have children and even their children prosper
 - 1. This is argument against Job's children being wicked
- D. Verse 9 – Live without rod of God (Heb. 12:7; Psalm 23:4)
- E. Verses 11, 12- Wicked's house is filled with joy and merriment
 - 1. Nothing inherently wrong with that but note Luke 12:18, 19
- F. Verse 13 – prosper in wickedness and go to grave in peace- Is. 65:20
 - 1. “Go to grave in peace”- They can even die with clear conscience
 - 2. We think- Well if they have time on deathbed they can repent
 - a. Deathbed repentance often false- but can be true (Lu. 23:40-43)

III. Let us Look at Verses 14 and 15

- A. “Depart from us” – Hebrew – We don't have room for you
 - 1. Some are bold enough to say that – other say in heart (Rom. 1:28)
 - 2. Others say it by their works (Titus 1:16) Ps. 36:1, 2
 - 3. Say it to God (Hebrew “El” – Word emphasizing God's strength
 - 4. Worst prayer in Bible–Mk 5:17-God will say Depart to them-Mt. 25:41
 - 5. A Believer always desires more of God's presence - Ps. 27:4; 42:1-3
 - B. “Desire not knowledge of His ways”- Not commandments or providence
 - C. “What is Almighty that we should serve Him”- Ridiculous statement
 - D. “What Profit is there in praying to Him?” – Again this makes no sense
- Conclusion:** What should be our response to this troubling truth?
- A. Genesis 18:25- Like Abraham recognize whatever God does is right
 - B. Recognize this is a great proof of a need for future judgment– Heb. 9:27
 - 1. Luke 16:19-24- Rich man in this life- receives punishment after
 - C. Realize that God has purpose for everything that He does
 - 1. Rom. 2:4, 5; 2 Pet. 3:9; Rom. 9:22, 23