

Pastor's Thoughts of the Week

Job 38:2-4: Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

The sin of presumption can adopt many forms. Man's finite mind sometimes mistakenly thinks it has a right to question the Almighty. God has equipped us all with the capacity of reason which, at least at times, demands explanations from the Creator. Inquisition after all is what brings a man to belief. But there are boundaries which must never be violated. "Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further" says the Lord to the proud waves and likewise to the proud insinuations of man. In our sedulous pursuit of truth we must never lose sight of the infinite chasm that separates the Divine from the profane—the Creator from the created. As sanctified as one may be we are always reminded that man in his best state is altogether vanity. And that vanity is always seeking opportunity to ventilate.

God's permission of suffering has always been a source of consternation for the skeptic. Men surmise that God owes them an explanation. To this point in the drama of Job, God has been silent. Job laments "Oh that I knew where I might find him!". In our reference above after Job's faith has been sorely tried, the Lord finds him. In Sir Robert Anderson's seminal work *The Silence of God*, we read these salient thoughts:

"No one may limit what God will do in response to individual faith. But we may confidently assert that, in view of His supreme revelation in Christ, God will yield nothing to the petulant demands of unbelief. And that revelation supplies the key to the dual mystery of a silent heaven and the trials of the life of faith on earth."

Life in a cursed world is a tenuous journey filled with dangers, toils and strife. One must not expect to "be carried to the skies on flowery beds of ease". We dare not accuse our gracious Maker of caprice in His permission of our afflictions but rather rejoice that the day of redemption is soon at hand. God forbid that His children darkeneth counsel with words without knowledge. Let us be content to trust the infinite mind of God and find our place at His feet declaring "He doeth all things well!".

Enjoy your day in the power of Christ,

Pastor

Faith cometh by hearing: and hearing by the word of God Romans 10:17