

Christ Apostolic Miracle Ministry Sunday School

Week 10: March 10th, 2024

Topic: The affliction of the righteous – Part 2

Bible Reading: Psalm 34:15-20

God does not like to punish people

Almighty God is a merciful God; though He is a disciplinarian, yet He works tenderly; because His stockpiles of loyal Love are immense. God takes no pleasure in making life hard by throwing roadblocks in people's way. God does not enjoy afflicting humans and causing sorrow; unless it is necessary. God does not like to punish people or make them sad; but the necessity to make them better individuals compels Him to do so. It is time for mankind to realize that God does not like causing them grief, or pain; but it is inevitable to give them a brighter future.

It must be noted that God will not arbitrarily bring suffering on mankind, or torment human beings; unless there is a reason or reasons. It is important to know that God will not deliberately hurt, or afflict human beings, unless it is for their own good. The Bible attested to this fact by saying, "For He does not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men." **Lamentation 3:33**. It is your duty to proclaim to the world that God is not predisposed to hurting humans, and He does not enjoy causing them sorrow, or making them sad; unless it is necessary.

Affliction makes people learn God's demands: Humans need to realize that anytime God afflicts them, it is for their good. Whenever God corrects you, it will do you good, by restoring you to the righteous path. Occasionally, it is good for one to suffer; because it will make you study the commandments of the Lord and mend your relationship with Your Creator. Sometimes, challenges are what will make people pay attention to the statutes of the Lord and get closer to Him. At times, your troubles may turn out all for your good, and bring the best out of you; according to the scripture which says, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes." Psalm 119:71. Suffering for a good cause is good for you; because it will make you pay attention to God's demands.

Affliction makes the stray return to God: Today, affliction is what brought numerous people in the world to God. Humans are seeking God not because they love their Maker, or care about His work. Whenever humans are in trouble, they will

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come to the Lord to seek assistance. Inasmuch as God alone has power to give mankind succor from their suffering; people always troop to the Lord to seek resolution of their situations.

Before affliction, many people have wandered off from the righteous path; however, when they are afflicted, they will closely follow the Lord. Had it been that people are not afflicted, they will not keep or honor the word of the Lord. The reason why countless people are paying attention to the scriptures is because of their predicament. Suffering is what makes people keep the commands of God with loving obedience. Is it difficulty that makes you seek God? Are you living according to the dictates of your heart before your affliction? If you are not punished, do you think you will observe the words of God? Before God showed you what is right, do you know that you made mistakes? You must begin to carefully obey the teachings of the Lord; according to the Bible passage which says, "Before, I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I keep Your word." **Psalm 119:67**. Inasmuch as God is good and He is the source of good; so, you must be disciplined before He will train you about His goodness.

Scriptures comfort during affliction: The word of God is what gives life and revives humans. Do not forget that the promises of God are powerful enough to keep your hope alive during your distress. When you are in trouble, the word of God will give you peace of mind, and makes you strong again. The scriptures are potent enough to comfort you during affliction. You must rely on the word of God for consolation during your suffering. The words of the Lord are the things that will hold you up, or steady you in bad times; and they will rejuvenate you, if you depend on them.

God will never forget His promises to you; because He knew that they are your hope. The promise of God will give you strength in all your troubles and refresh your life; if you depend on them. Hence, if you hang on the words of God; they will comfort you in misery and preserve your life; according to the Book of Psalm which says, "This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life." **Psalm 119:50**. Since God can be trusted to keep His words if you depend on them; they will comfort you, renew your hope, and refresh your life during the affliction period. The only thing that can console you in distress, or when you are hurt, is the scripture.