

Christ Apostolic Miracle Ministry Sunday School

Week 12: March 24th, 2024

Topic: The affliction of the righteous – Part 4

Bible Reading: Psalm 34:15-20

Suffering is rampant in the world

Nowadays, people are suffering throughout the world, and the pains of humanity know no bounds. The majority of the populace of the world are going through hardships; because they failed to repent and seek God, who can comfort them. The economic downturn is hurting people across the globe, because mankind has forsaken the Almighty God, who has the power to make them buoyant. Do not be deceived, God is the only Being who can sustain you during your existence. So, why not repent, and turn to God who can give you succor?

Today, the situation of the world is dire, and affliction is spreading unchecked throughout the 'nook and corner of the world.' Though, the majority of these hardships are man-made problems; which means it is the inhumane conduct of humans towards one another that causes these pains and sufferings. Even before any natural disaster happens, God will send a presage (a sign, or warning that something bad will happen); because He will not willingly hurt humans; however, people always remain adamant until it is too late.

People and animals are suffering on earth; the beasts groan, the herds of cattle are perplexed, and they are wandering aimlessly; because they have no pasture; the flock of sheep too suffer punishment. Meals are scarce in many households, and food is just a memory at the tables of many families; because of what is happening in the world. The Book of Joel chronicled the gloomy situation of the world by saying, "How the animals groan! The herds of cattle are restless, because they have no pasture; even the flocks of sheep suffer punishment." **Joel 1:18**

Do not turn to evil to escape affliction: It is a common occurrence in the world today to turn to wicked conduct, in order to escape affliction. Even countless of the so-called Christians prefer the vice of complaining against God, rather than learning from affliction. Therefore, be on guard! Do not turn to evil as a way to escape your suffering. Numerous people are obsessed with putting blame on God whenever things go wrong for them; instead of submission in affliction.

Inasmuch as you cannot sleep off your troubles, or buy your way out of your affliction; do not make things worse by turning to iniquity to escape your pains, or hardships. Sometimes, God makes humans suffer; in order to keep them from a life

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of evil, and prepare them for the future. Therefore, beware of turning to iniquity; instead turn to God, who can give you relief. The Bible attested to this fact by saying, "Take heed, do not turn to iniquity, for you have chosen this rather than affliction." **Job 36:21.**

You need to emulate Moses who preferred to endure the hardships of the people of God rather than enjoy the passing pleasures of sin. If you are a true Christian; you will choose to share the suffering and bearing the shame of Brethren; instead of having the fleeting enjoyment of a sinful life. Are you ready to be mistreated with the Believers rather than having the good time that sin can bring briefly? Do you value suffering in the Messiah's camp more than earthly wealth? Are you prepared to refuse privileges of a royal house; because of God's commands? Are you ready to choose a hard life with God's people instead of an opportunistic soft life of sin with the oppressors? The Bible affirmed this fact by saying, ".....choosing to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin."

Hebrews 11:24-25.

Do not afflict anyone: People should stop mistreating one another because their Maker is not pleased with this vice. It is an offence before the Lord to cheat, or exploit anyone; however, people are oppressing one another across the globe at an alarming rate. The Bible stated that "You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child." **Exodus 22:22.** It is not limited to the widows and orphans; so, you must never abuse anyone, if you do not want God to be displeased with you. Whoever that is hurting or oppressing others; cannot claim to be a child of God.

Anytime you harm innocent people, and they cry to God for help; God will avenge them, and such a person will be punished. God will surely come to the rescue of the oppressed, and their oppressors will face the consequences. God will never fail to act on the cry of the afflicted, and He will pour His fury on the people who are afflicting them; according to the Bible passages which says, "If you afflict them in any way, and they cry to Me, I will surely hear their cry;....." **Exodus 22:23-24.** For this reason, do not exploit or afflict anyone; if you do not want to be punished.