

Christ Apostolic Miracle Ministry Sunday School

Week 9: March 3rd, 2024

Topic: The affliction of the righteous – Part 1

Bible Reading: Psalm 34:15-20

Introduction

Affliction is anything that causes pain, or distress. It is a state of grief or misery. Affliction is something that causes mental or bodily pain, or great suffering that you have to deal with. Anything that grievously affects your life, or trouble you is affliction; so whatever that is causing difficulties in your journey is affliction.

Numerous people are being afflicted in the world today due to their race, color, origin, gender and political disposition, or religious belief and standing for the truth; however, they should not relent or compromise; instead, they should continue to do what is right and good; because God will comfort them when they least expect. Almighty God will visit such people and turn their affliction to gladness.

Affliction comes from humans

Do not blame fate when things go wrong for you; because trouble, or affliction does not come from nowhere, but from human beings. It is the wickedness of humans that always results in affliction. The inhumane conduct of people that usually lead to suffering and misery for others. Therefore, you need to realize that hard times do not spring up from the dust, and trouble does not grow from the ground; but from misconduct of humans like anger, jealousy, exploitation, oppression etc. The Bible corroborated this fact by saying, “For affliction does not come from the dust, nor does trouble spring from the ground.” **Job 5:6**. Inasmuch as evil does not spring from the soil; it is time for people to stop afflicting one another.

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People are languishing: Today, people are dealing with one another without compassion, and cruelty is at the highest level throughout the world. Agony is the daily companion across the globe, with feelings that their suffering only just begins, or it will get worse. Numerous people are torn apart by worrying about how to survive, and how to overcome their pains. The hearts of countless people are troubled and cannot rest due to the affliction that is confronting them. Many people are tossing at night instead of sleeping; due to the thoughts of suffering ahead of them. Nowadays, the majority of the population of the world is living from paycheck to paycheck without any end in sight; according to the scripture which says, “My heart is in turmoil and cannot rest; days of affliction confront me.” **Job 30:27.** Are you living a hard life? Is your heart troubled and restless? Are days of suffering tormenting you? Cry to the Lord, and you will be comforted.

Wealth and power cannot protect you from distress

Do not be deceived, nothing in this world can protect you from distress; so, everyone will bear his or her own cross. God alone can keep you safe and out of trouble; so, you need to do what is good, and have faith in the Lord. It should be noted that your reputation, and riches cannot protect you from distress. All your wealth is insufficient to keep you from the confinement of distress. Your affluence cannot rescue you from spiritual affliction, and your great strength will not keep you out of trouble. Humans must taste one form of affliction, or the other during their lifetime. Do not let your great riches mislead you; do not think you can bribe your way out; because you cannot bribe God, and never blame Your Maker during your afflictive period. The Bible testified to this fact by saying, “Will your riches, or all the mighty forces, keep you from distress?” **Job 36:19.** The answer to the question is no! Hence, you need to realize that your wealth and efforts cannot keep you from pains and affliction.

It must be noted that if you endure your affliction without compromise, or deny God; then He will impart blessings and favor on you. God will complete and make you what you ought to be; then you will be established

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and settled. The underserved kindness that God shows to everyone prompted Jesus Christ to be appointed to share His eternal glory with you; however, you have to suffer for a while, before God will make you complete, strong, and firm. You must be afflicted for doing good, before you can be restored and steadied. The Devil is poised to attack; so, do not nap, but keep your guard up. You are not the only one plunged into these hard times. It is the same with Christians all over the world; so, keep a firm grip on the faith; because your suffering won't last forever. The Bible attested to this fact by saying, "But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen and settle you." **1 Peter 5:10**. Remember that God has great eternal and glorious plans for you in Christ that will put you on your feet for good; however, you must suffer for His name's sake, and be afflicted for doing good.