

Living in Affliction

Hebrews 12:1-13

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY?

Hebrews 12:3 (KJV)

³**For consider him** that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

THE WORLD JUDGES CHRISTIANITY BY HOW YOU HANDLE AFFLICTION.

- ✓ EVERY YEAR WE SAY TO EACH OTHER “I HOPE YOU HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR?”
- ✓ BUT THE PURITANS USED TO SAY TO EACH OTHER “BLESSED NEW YEAR”.

In other words what they were saying is that “any afflictions that God may impose, you should be still that you may grow in grace with them”. That you would be Partakers in his righteousness and Holiness.

- ✓ We are to be more like Jesus.

Consider Hebrews 12.

1. We are not alone in handling affliction.
2. Hebrews 11 is the gallery of afflictions, by faith.

Hebrews 12 now shows us, that having these NT saints and Christian friends that have gone before us we need to consider Jesus.

- We need to look to Jesus.
 - Understanding that many have trodden this way before us, so we should also be able to do it.
1. God afflicts us now as believers in Jesus as a father who cares for his children.
 2. He chastens us as his children.
 3. He loves us so he chastises us when we do wrong, so as to guide us as a parent does a child.
- ✓ We are disciplined, to be his children.

Hebrews 12:3 - “For consider Him.” Our Lord Jesus.

1. Consider Jesus the Christ. – The Saviour of the world.
2. He faced affliction.
3. So we are also commanded to Walk as he walked.
4. We can't do that without the Holy Spirit.

5. Without the Holy Spirit we will walk the wrong way to the lusts of our flesh, so we need the Holy Spirit to help us.
6. The bible says that the Holy Spirit is our guide and our teacher, and will prove all things to us which are sin.

Many people, who call themselves Christians, cannot even begin to describe their Lord and Saviour. So here are a few titles of our Lord Jesus.

Some of the titles and names of the Lord are:

1. The great "I AM".
2. The Alpha and Omega.
3. The great physician.
4. The Wonderful councillor. The mighty God.
5. The Son of God.
6. The Word.
7. The Word of God.
8. Redeemer of the World.
9. King of Kings.
10. Lord of Lords.
11. Lamb of God.
12. Jesus the Christ. (The Messiah)
13. The greatest of all titles is he is "God" – Heb 1:8 confirms this.

Hebrews 1:8

⁸But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

- Yet he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Philippians 2:6-9. His name is above all names.

Philippians 2:6-9

⁶Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

⁷But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

⁸And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

⁹Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

We are to consider the Lord Jesus to bring honour to Jesus who is God the Son.

1. **Consider the Afflictions of Jesus Christ.**

- ✓ When we are facing adversity in our life, whether it be a loved one who is in pain, or whether we ourselves are afflicted. We tend to focus on the immediate need to remedy the affliction we face.
 - ✓ We pull out all the stops we know of how to deal with the heartache and stress that we may be facing.
 - ✓ We may even hand the situation over to someone else to help us deal with the heartache.
1. It is at this time that we learn the most about ourselves.
 2. It may be a time when we realize our failure.
 3. It may be a time when we realize our weakness.
 4. It may be a time when we want to totally withdraw ourselves from the stressful event.
 5. Whilst suffering we may even ask the question “Why me Lord”?
- ✓ All this that we may be going through and be facing, pales in comparison when we look at scripture today. Hebrews 12:3. Which says “**For Consider Him**”.

What we can ask ourselves about our Lord is the following question?

- ✓ How did Jesus suffer for me in comparison to my beggarly situation, and we can soon come to the real facts, that Christ suffered far more and above and beyond any measure than we can ever suffer.
- And Jesus did so for those that would consider Him. In salvation.
 - To show the world that they could believe in Him for eternal salvation.
1. So, to meditate, and to think about what the Saviour has done, and gone through, and accomplished and then to compare this to what we have to go through brings us back to the real reason for life and puts our life into perspective.
 2. And that is to “**Consider Him**”.
- ✓ Therefore, and as we consider him, we draw closer to him, and see the love of Jesus Christ which is able to bear us up in our infirmities.
 - a) Jesus Christ endured far more than just pain and suffering, he has taken upon him the full weight and burden of sin, our sin.
 - b) Therefore to compare what we have been through or suffering through? Is nothing.
 - ✓ We need to consider what the Saviour has endured for us.
 - ✓ And realize that we are a selfish people. Not selfless people.
1. **QUESTION: How Christ centred are we when we are suffering?**
 - a) **Hebrews 4:15** (Christ has faced all the trials. Yet Without sin.)

¹⁵For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; **but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.**

- b) He knows what we are going through.
- c) He understands it and will help you bear it.
- d) He is always dealing with you as a faithful father to his child.

2. Turn to the Lord in your time of affliction?

- a) It is only when we are finished from our own works, can we then turn to the Lord.
- b) There is a call to put on the Lord Jesus Christ. Because it is only when we have put Him on will we experience His love and power in our lives.

Romans 13:14

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

- c) This is the time when we stop trusting in our self and start trusting in the Lord. Hebrews 4:10.

Hebrews 4:10 - ¹⁰ For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God *did* from His.

- d) This is the time that we have entered into His rest. When we can trust and can rely on our Lord to be all sufficient and in control of our lives no matter what happens.
 - e) Only then can we say that we have ceased from our works.
 - f) This will be the time when the Lord can begin to heal us from our own desires, and the focus becomes clear that the time of suffering is only for a season.
 - g) And whether the Lord will heal us physically or not, spiritually we will be healed.
 - h) He will enable us to bear our infirmities.
- ✓ The Lords Word can bring peace and rest to some, but others reject it.
 - ✓ In Hebrews 4:1-13 we read the Lords word is able to deliver. But many whilst they have heard the word have failed to come to Christ. And the scripture is clear as to why this is the case. They have failed to mix the Word preached with faith in their hearts.

6. **Consider the power of Christ in affliction.**

1. Jesus said in Matthew 28:18 "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."
 2. With such a Wonderful Saviour the King of Kings and knowing that our future lies within the clasp of His Almighty hand we can only be thankful to Him.
 3. He has victory and power over Sin, and has defeated death and hell.
 4. He has the power of resurrection and eternal life for the believer.
 5. Whilst we may suffer here and now in this life as a result of our sins, the damaging stains, yet we will be washed clean by the blood of the Lamb.
- ✓ Thus the exalted Lord can strengthen us.

- ✓ He is now still ever in control seated at the right hand of the Father.
 - ✓ He has always been in control.
1. No affliction is a surprise to Jesus.
 2. He knows what we can bear.
 3. God is a righteous God, and His Word is righteous as He is righteous.
- Let your response be of that which pleases Gods when the world looks in at you.

Lastly, in closing this morning.

7. Consider the presence of Jesus Christ in your affliction.

- ✓ The Lord is always present. He will never leave you nor forsake you as a believer.
- ✓ We are kept by the power of God, and He loves us enough to have shed His own blood for us.

He is always the same. Yesterday and today and tomorrow.

- ✓ Always trust Him.
- ✓ Always believe Him.
- ✓ Always believe IN HIM.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.....