

Learning from Affliction – Part 3

Introduction

- Affliction is anything that causes pain, distress, suffering or calamity
- Individuals & groups are afflicted (Phil. 4:14; 2Co. 8:1-2)
- God is ultimately in control of all affliction – directly or indirectly (Ps. 66:10-11; 2Th. 1:6; 2Co. 12:7)
- God's purpose in affliction for the believer is ultimately good (Rom. 8:28)
- Affliction is also: punitive, disciplinary, proves genuineness & reveals the glory of God

I. Before Affliction (v. 67a)

A. Attitude

*In times of peace & prosperity, our thoughts tend to wander – idle, careless & forgetful (Deut. 6:10-12; 8:18). Carelessness or idleness (ἀργός) means useless or unproductive – thinking (Matt. 12:36; 15:18-19). **Be careful!***

B. Actions

*In times of peace & prosperity, our actions tend to wander – idleness & carelessness (2Sam. 11:1-4; Ps. 30:6). Idleness (ἄτακτος) means disorderly, insubordinate or undisciplined – actions (2Th. 3:6-7, 11). **Be careful!***

II. After Affliction (v. 65-67)

A. Attitude (v. 65-67a)

The psalmist was afflicted verbally & physically (119:22, 51, 161). A believer who has learned from affliction, is thankful & can see God's goodness (v. 65), teachable (v. 66), and humble (v. 67a).

B. Actions (v. 67b)

Obedience to the word of God is priority. God's will (revealed in His word) is the priority of life! Affliction should result in immediate & permanent change – “now”, “I keep”.