

Motherhood – Pain, Joy & Victory

Introduction & Review

- We have been considering life from the beginning of time to better understand problems today & ultimately the end of time.
- We have considered God's goodness in all of creation from the beginning of time.
- We have considered God's mercy toward Adam & Eve inside the garden of Eden after they sinned.
- We have begun to consider God's mercy toward Adam & Eve outside the garden of Eden after they sinned.

I. The Pain of Motherhood (Gen. 3:16a)

A. The beginning of labor pains

Labor pains are recurrent abdominal muscle spasms that signal the beginning of childbirth. They increase in intensity & frequency. They are unique to the woman & pregnancy.

B. The end of labor pains

The woman's body has been fearfully & wonderfully made by God to endure labor pains. Labor pains are not intended to be perpetual, but have a specific purpose – birth!

APPL: In the Scriptures, labor pains represent the agony a believer endures while waiting for another to mature (Gal. 4:19); God's judgment (1Th. 5:3); suffering & agony of creation while waiting for the return of Christ (Rom. 8:22); etc. This is pain with a purpose.

II. The Joy of Motherhood (Jn. 16:21)

A. Joy in birth

The intense & frequent pains of labor will end with a glorious result. The birth of a child brings relief, hope and immediate joy – a precious gift from God (Ps. 127:3). The present joy overshadows the memories of past labor pains.

B. Joy in life

The joy of motherhood continues on into the child's life & future. God who gave the child has a purpose for the child (Pr. 16:4; Jer. 29:11; Rom. 15:13).

APPL: A mother's joy at birth represents the joy of believers at the resurrection of Christ (16:16-24)! This is a divine reason for joy – "no one will take your joy from you" (16:23).

III. The Victory of Motherhood (Mt. 1:18-23)

A. Victory in many children (humanity)

God created Adam & Eve to procreate & populate the earth with people (Gen. 1:28). Satan attempted to destroy humanity at the beginning – he is a liar & murdered (Jn. 8:44). But God overruled & Eve became the mother of all humanity (Gen. 3:20).

B. Victory in one child

From the beginning, Satan has attempted to stop the birth of the Savior. But God overruled & decreed the Savior's victory (Gen. 3:15). In God's own timing & way the Savior was born (Gal. 4:4-5; Matt. 1:18-23).

APPL: God redeems, exalts & honors motherhood. The role of the woman in the plan of redemption is secured as Christ the Savior is born & ultimately glorified. Mothers reserve the high & holy privilege of bringing souls into this life for God's eternal redemption.