

“Shall We Not Accept Adversity?”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. Job 2:10-13, 14:1, 14

1. Job understood that God permits adversity into our lives
2. Job understood that it is a natural part of the cycle of life in this world
3. Job understood that how one bears with adversity in this world determines his destiny in the world to come

B. Adversity isn't personal.

1. “Why me, Lord?” (Kris Kristofferson) It isn't about God picking on me.
2. It is about God making me a better me - James 1:2-4
 - a. “You can't be brave if you've only had wonderful things happen to you.” (Mary Tyler Moore)
 - b. “Difficulties strengthen the mind, as labor does the body.” (Seneca)
3. It is about God helping us get back on our journey to heaven
 - a. Heb. 12:11
 - b. “If the road is easy, you're likely going the wrong way.” (Terry Goodkind)

I. ACTUALITIES ABOUT ADVERSITY

A. Adversity is against our will

1. Adversity will come to us - Heb. 11:32-38; 1Peter 4:12; Rev. 2:10
2. Adversity will come in different forms and magnitude
3. Adversity comes quickly and unannounced
4. Adversity hides the future from the present - 1Peter 1:6-9
5. Adversity isn't intimidate by the fact that we are Christians

B. Adversity has its own adversary

1. Adversity is only temporary - Ecc. 3:1-8; 2Cor. 4:17-18
2. Adversity is overcome by Jesus Christ - Rev. 17:14; Col. 2:15

C. Adversity refines us

1. “And once the storm is over, you won't remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won't even be sure, whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain. When you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in. That's what this storm's all about.” (Haruki Murakami)
2. “The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen.” (Elisabeth Kübler-Ross)

II. ADVERSITY ADMONISHMENTS

A. Adversity can draw us closer to or drive us further from God

1. Further from - Job's wife - Job 2:9
 2. Closer to - Job's response - Job 2:10
 - a. Paul's response - 2Cor. 12:10
 3. How we choose to respond determines which it will be
- B. Adversity hurts - 2Tim. 4:10, 14-18
1. "We acknowledge that life in this world is a battle and then are surprised when someone gets wounded." (Robert Hicks)
 2. Flesh wounds heal, but scars remain; soul wounds last longer, but all wounds are healed in heaven - Rev. 21:4
- C. Adversity educates
1. Adversity teaches us the right priorities in life - Ecc. 7:3-5
 2. Adversity teaches us humility, our dependence on God rather than ourselves - 2Cor. 12:7, 1:9-10
- D. Adversity requires that we seek spiritual help
1. God is aware of our suffering and provides help - Ex. 3:7-8; 2Cor. 1:3
 2. God sends help by means of fellow Christians - 2Cor. 1:4, 7:6, 13
 3. God offers help through study and prayer - 1Thes. 4:18; Acts 27:24-25
 4. God's love transcends all adversity - Rom. 8:35-39