



June 26, 2005

O That My Words Were Written...

There perhaps comes a time in life when one is faced with difficulties beyond our abilities and personal resources to deal with the situation. Such was the state of Job as he defended himself in the presence of his friends and wife. Job states, ***“Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book! That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever! For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.”*** (Job 19.23-25). Job knew that the situation was such that he could not fight back. He also realized that while his situation was desperate, he would not end his own life, but called upon God to be merciful and take this from him. We realize that later Job is restored and blessed by God but in the midst of the fires of tribulation it was impossible to be able to tell what the outcome might be. This particular passage is one of my personal favorites and it is filled with some powerful lessons.

“Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book!” It is normal for one who is feeling helpless to desire to be heard, to have an advocate that will intervene on our behalf. Throughout the book, Job expresses a desire that there would be one who would hear him and do just that. In our lives, we have an adversary, the devil who seeks to do us harm (1 Pet 5.8). We also have the mind of the world expressed around us in a number of sinful ways, constantly challenging the very idea of God and faithfulness. Peter goes on to tell us that there is one who hears and cares for us (1 Pet 5.7). The battles that we fight are not without aid. We sometimes may grow weary thinking that God is far removed from the things that we are experiencing. As Peter stated, God cares for us and will see us through, just as he did for Job.

“That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever!” Peter also tells us that if we speak, we should speak as the oracles of God (1 Pet 4.11). In doing so we share with God his immortal word. As we search for those who will listen to this message we take part in the most important task on earth; the saving of souls. Job learned to abandon his own will, accepting the things that were coming upon him as being from God and therefore just. Job did not fight or curse God as Satan stated that he would. Instead he prayed for God to deliver him. Deliverance for us will come about as we take the word of God into our own minds, allowing our inner being to be converted (Rom 12.2), transformed into that which God would have us to be. God will then hear our prayers and eventually deliver us from eternal death if we are faithful to him. Job’s words were remembered by God and so will ours.

“For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.” We, like Job, may not always understand why God allows all of the things in our lives to happen the way that they do. We must remember however that God has provided salvation. Job was assured that even if he died he would be in the care of God. Christ has opened that door so that all of us have the assurance that he will keep our souls and the works that we have done. The Psalmist writes, ***“Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.”*** (Psm 116.15). This is a great gift from God. One that should encourage and comfort us from day to day.

TLC