Sunday, August 9, 2020

The Question We Cannot Avoid

Job 2-3

David H. McKinley

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"Tomorrow, if all literature was to be destroyed and it was left to me to retain one work only, I should save Job… It is perhaps the greatest masterpiece of the human mind." —Victor Hugo

Job—"The greatest poem whether of ancient or modern literature." —Lord Alfred Tennyson

"I call this book, apart from all theories about it, one of the greatest things ever written. Our first, oldest statement of the never-ending problem of man's destiny and God's ways with him in the earth. There is nothing written, I think, of equal literary merit." —Thomas Carlyle

And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." —Job 1:21

4Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. 5But stretch out Your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse You to Your face." 6And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life." 7So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. 8And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself while he sat in the ashes. —Job 2:4-8

"Will a person serve God for nothing—if there are no blessings attached or no payoff? I have to confess to you that the devil has asked a very legitimate question. It's a question that all of us must face and somehow try to answer. **Why do you serve God?** Why do you go to church on Sunday? Why do you tithe?" —Dr. Ron Dunn, *When Heaven is Silent*

1. We are _____ for His Glory

23Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, 24but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD." —Jeremiah 9:23-24

Notes:

"Disregard the study of God, and you sentence yourself to stumble and blunder through life blindfolded, as it were, with no sense of direction and no understanding of what surrounds you. This is the way you can waste your life and lose your soul."
—J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*

2. We are Protected by

God's _____

[25]For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth. [26]And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, [27]whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me! —Job 19:25-27

3. We are Comforted by

God's _____

Sovereign. The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all. —Psalm 103:19

"People treat God's sovereignty as a matter of controversy, but in Scripture it is a matter of worship… to know that nothing happens in God's world apart from God's will may frighten the godless but it stabilizes the saints." —J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*

"The secret of faith that is ready for emergencies is the quiet, practical dependence upon God day by day which makes Him real to the believing heart." —Hudson Taylor

4. We are Surrounded by

God's _____

[21]But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: [22]The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; [23]they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. [24]"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in Him." [25]The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.
—Lamentations 3:21-25

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A WAY OF LIFE

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