

## Trouble

Psalms 107:26-27

## Trouble Is Perplexing Psalms 73

- Why? Psalms 73:1-16
- Understood when we consider the latter end. Psalms 73:17

## Trouble Will Come

- Jesus. John 15:20
- Paul. Acts 14:22
  - Godliness leads to persecution. 2 Timothy 3:10-12
  - We must prepare to face them before they come. Acts 17:1-6; cf. 1 Thessalonians 3:4
- Peter. 1 Peter 5:8-9

## Not Proof of Guilt or Innocence

- Present affliction is not proof one has sinned. Luke 13:1-5; John 9:1ff
- Innocent people suffer. James 1:27

## Not Proof of Guilt or Innocence

- You may appear to be an evil doer when you suffer for righteousness. 2 Timothy 1:8
- Suffering may occur because one is doing what is good. 1 Peter 3:13-17; (cf. 1 Peter 4:16)

## Why Do Men Suffer?

- Men are rash who presume to know all the causes behind every specific affliction. cf. Proverbs 14:12
- Yet, the Scriptures reveal some reasons why some may suffer.

## Why Do Men Suffer?

- Some suffer as direct consequence of their own choices & sins.
  - Deuteronomy 6:24; 2 Kings 17 Israel.
  - Ezekiel 22:31; Jeremiah 25; Judah.
- Some suffer because of the sins of others.
  - Mark 6:14-27 John the Baptist
  - Acts 7-8 Stephen
  - Luke 10:30-33 Man fell into the hands of robbers.

## Why Do Men Suffer?

- Some suffer because the laws of nature have been violated.
  - Acts 20:9 Eutychus
- Some are persecuted because they are righteous.
  - 2 Corinthians 11:23ff Paul.
  - Matthew 5:10-12 Blessed are the persecuted.
  - Hebrews 11:32-37 OT worthies.

## Why Do Men Suffer?

- Suffering makes it possible for us to grow in relationship with God.
  - Hebrews 12:6-11 Lessons learned through chastening. cf. 1 Corinthians 11:30-32
  - 1 Peter 1:6-9 Proves our faith ... saves our soul.

## Troubles Have Potential Benefit

- Can teach contentment – not blame.
  - Genesis 29 Leah was not loved. (30:13)
  - Philippians 4:11-13 Paul learned contentment.
- Help us learn submissive obedience.  
Hebrews 5:8-9

– *“The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without trials.”*

## Troubles Have Potential Benefit

- Occasion of strengthening our faith.  
James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-8; 2 Timothy 2:3; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10; Romans 5:3-4
- One who has suffered can help the suffering. 2 Corinthians 1:3-6

## Trials Can Be Overcome

- God promises we can overcome present troubles
  - James 1:12; *“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he hath been approved, he shall receive the crown of life, which (the Lord) promised to them that love him.”*
  - 1 Corinthians 10:13 Satan has limits!

## Troubles Need Not Paralyze Us

- Our faith need not be disturbed.  
**1 Thessalonians 3:1-3**
- Can endure afflictions by keeping heaven as our goal. 2 Timothy 4:6-8; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Revelation 2:10  
1 Peter 4:13 – Rejoice when you share in Christ's suffering ... exceeding joy.

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## Victory Over Trouble

- *Psalms 107:26-32; 40*

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## Conclusion

- Asaph troubled. Psalms 73:1-16
- Asaph reconsiders. Psalms 73:17-28
- Suffering now fades into nothing when laid against the backdrop of eternal glory.  
Romans 8:18