

The Confidence of Job by Carl McMurray

In my reading this past week I came to Job 19 and was reminded of why Job is given as such a fantastic example. We often hear of his "patience," that is, his endurance, but I wonder if we realize why Job was so patient. I suggest it was because of where his confidence was. Listen to Job's summation of his woes in chapter 19.

He cried out for help, but no one seemed to be listening, there was no answer. All earthly pride and hope had been taken from him as he was "broken down." Friends, acquaintances, relatives, servants and even children avoided him. Even his breath was offensive to his wife. He was sick and shrunken from his sickness. He viewed himself as "escaping only by the skin of my teeth."

As we come to the end of the chapter though, here is where we gain insight into the real man, Job. Not the suffering servant but the confident man of God. Several plain statements follow his wish that his words would be written in stone. In spite of his earthly troubles and tragedy Job was confident of several things.

"I know that my Redeemer lives."
He would return someday and Job would see Him.
Then will come judgment and the wicked should fear it.

The truth that kept Job going through trial and tribulation was the truth that God lives, and cares, and is coming back. Whatever we may be going through it will have an end someday and we will see God. At that time all the unfair and unjust actions of wicked people will be made clear and punished. The New Testament teaches that the motives of men will be revealed and secrets will all come to light. There will be no more excuses and blame-shifting. No more accusations.

And for the child of God? At that time the truth that the child of God lives in and depends upon will shine forth. No need for explaining anymore. No charges to answer. No lies to confront or bear up under. Judgment is not just something for the wicked. Judgment is also a pronouncement and vindication that the godly man or woman WAS RIGHT to trust in God. It will be a statement and fact of glory and reward. That is where our confidence must be placed. We KNOW that our Redeemer lives.