



*LOVING THE BIBLE:
EVEN UNDER AFFLICTION*

(Part 1)

Selections from Psalm 119

REASONS TO LOVE THE BIBLE

- Focus on PS 119.97-104
 - Vs 97 sets the theme: The psalmist's chief emphasis is on loving God's Law
- He gives five reasons for LOVING God's Law
 - Reason # 1: It gives true wisdom
(119.98-100)
 - Reason # 2: It holds the believer to the path of righteousness
(119.101)
 - Reason # 3: God is the believer's teacher through the Word
(119.102)
 - Reason # 4: The Word is sweeter than honeycomb
(119.103)
 - Reason # 5: Learning to hate every wrong path
(119.104) ^x

PSALMIST ADDRESSES AFFLICTION

- Ps 119.65-67

65 You have dealt well with Your servant,
O LORD, according to Your word.

66 Teach me good discernment and knowledge,
For I believe in Your commandments.

67 Before I was afflicted I went astray,
But now I keep Your word

- The psalmist had somehow departed following God's Word
 - God sent him affliction to cause him to realize where he was wrong and pull him back to following and applying His Word
 - Deeper study on “affliction” to understand the psalmist’s view ^x

WHAT IS AFFLICTION ?

- Definitions

- "Anything causing pain or distress; suffering; calamity."

Elwell, W. A., & Beitzel, B. J.

"Affliction" In Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible

- "The word 'affliction' is a word that brings to mind physical and mental suffering. Someone who is afflicted is disturbed or possibly frightened because of danger, pain, or some kind of distress".

Carpenter, E. E., & Comfort, P. W.

In Holman treasury of key Bible words x

Affliction: Sources

- Overall

- # 1: Genesis curse from original sin

- Gen 3:16–17

“To the woman He said,

‘I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth,

In pain you will bring forth children;

Yet your desire will be for your husband,

And he will rule over you.”

Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’;

Cursed is the ground because of you;

In toil you will eat of it

All the days of your life.’ “^x

Affliction: Sources

- Overall

- # 1: Genesis curse from original sin (cont'd)

- Rom 8.18-21

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.

For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.”

- # 2: The cosmic conflict between Satan and Jesus Christ is cited throughout the Bible ^x

Affliction: Sources

- Overall *(cont'd)*
 - Affliction by the world system (kosmos) is common to every human at all times in history
 - Job 5.7
“For man is born for trouble,
As sparks fly upward. “
 - God also acts as a “source” of affliction
 - He doesn’t send it, but allows it and sometimes applies it
 - He deliberately sends it for a reason and desired outcome ^x

Affliction: Different sources & types

- From the Old Testament
 - National affliction, resulting from the oppression of a political entity
Neh 9.9
“You saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt,
And heard their cry by the Red Sea”
 - Social affliction, resulting from a perversion of the law
Isa 3.14-15
“The LORD enters into judgment with the elders and princes of
His people,
‘It is you who have devoured the vineyard;
The plunder of the poor is in your houses.
What do you mean by crushing My people
And grinding the face of the poor?’
Declares the Lord GOD of hosts.” x

Affliction: Different sources & types (cont'd)

- From the Old Testament (cont'd)

- Moral affliction, as God's retribution for sin

Job 4.7-9

“Remember now, who ever perished being innocent?

Or where were the upright destroyed?

“According to what I have seen, those who plow iniquity

And those who sow trouble harvest it.

“By the breath of God they perish,

And by the blast of His anger they come to an end

- Natural affliction

Gen 16.11

“The angel of the LORD said to her further,

‘Behold, you are with child,

And you will bear a son;

And you shall call his name Ishmael,

Because the LORD has given heed to your affliction. ‘ “^x

Affliction: Different sources & types (cont'd)

- From the Old Testament (cont'd)

- Spiritual affliction

1 Sam 16.14

“Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him”

- From the New Testament

- God uses it to induce humility

2 Cor 12.7

“Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me — to keep me from exalting myself!” x

Affliction: Different sources & types (cont'd)

- From the New Testament (cont'd)

- God uses it to promote holiness

1 Pet 1.6-7

“In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; “

1 Pet 4.1-2

“Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God” x

Affliction: Different sources & types *(cont'd)*

- From the New Testament *(cont'd)*
 - God uses it to promote endurance for end times / end of life
Jam 1.3-4
“knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing”
 - God uses it to build believer's experience for the instruction of others
2 Cor 1.3-4
“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God” ^x

Affliction: Different sources & types *(cont'd)*

- From the New Testament *(cont'd)*

- It comes from natural causes

Jam 1.27

“Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this:

to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world. “

- Persecution because of faithfulness to Christ

2 Cor 6.4-5

“but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger” x

Affliction: Different sources & types (cont'd)

- From the New Testament (cont'd)
 - God uses it to build discipline for the purpose of Christian maturity
Heb 12.6
“FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES,
AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES”
 - Comes as pain resulting from personal sin
Gal 6.7
“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap”
 - Occurs to give glory to God
1 Pet 4.14
If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you x

Affliction: Believers are guaranteed it

- It is common to every human in every time
Job 5.7
“For man is born for trouble,
As sparks fly upward. “
- Jesus indicated trials and sorrows for his followers
Jn 16:33
“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”
- Paul taught that entrance to the kingdom of God comes with many tribulations
Acts 14:22b
“Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.” x

Affliction: Believers are guaranteed it (cont'd)

- Afflictions must not shake a Christian's faith

1 Thess 3:2-3

“... we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith, so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this” x

Affliction: Believers are guaranteed it *(cont'd)*

- Afflictions are a “finishing up” of the remainder of Christ’s suffering for his body, the church

Col 1:24

“Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions. “

Phil 1.29

“For to you it has been granted for Christ’s sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake...”

- Clarification
 - Christ's suffering and death was sufficient to purchase salvation
 - Paul indicates that it is the believer's privilege to suffer for Him
 - And Christ does suffer when a believer suffers x

Resources

- *Psalms, Volume 3: (Psalms 107-150): An Expository Commentary* (main resource)
James Montgomery Boice
- *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*
Robert Jamieson, A.R. Fausset, David Brown
- *The Biblical Illustrator The Psalms Volumes 1-5*
Rev. Joseph S. Excell
- *Opening Up Psalms*
Roger Ellsworth