

Job 11.15-19—Encouragements to Repentance

In relation to our heavenly Father, v.15

- I. Sin makes us hide our face from God (Gen 3.10; 4.6; Lk 18.13). But repentance, which brings God's forgiveness into our heart and restores us to God's peace, enables us to lift our face to God and rest in His loving countenance, 1Jn 1.9; 2.1
- II. This is made possible through the work of Christ, who bore our guilt and shame on the cross and reconciled us to God, which opened the door of repentance for us, Eph 1.7; Rom 5.10; Heb 4.14-16
- III. Take hold of these promises! Pr 28.13; Ps 51.17; Isa 55.7

In relation to ourself, v.15

- I. Sin is one of the most unsettling things in life. It causes us to lose our footing, our confidence, and our peace. Sin fills life with uncertainties, indecision, shattered hopes, and all sorts of fears.
 - A. Adam's first words after he sinned were, "I was afraid," Gen 3.10
 - B. The man of sin knows no peace and lives in constant fear, Lev 26.36; Ps 53.5; 73.19; Jer 17.17
- II. But how blessed is the work of repentance!
 - A. It brings security and inner peace, Ps 1.1-3
 - B. It takes away all fear, Jer 30.10; Ps 56.9, 11; Heb 13.5-6

In relation to our trials, v.16

- I. Nothing is ever truly forgotten. But there is a blessed forgetfulness that follows upon the heels of repentance. It's not the forgetfulness of the suffering itself; it's the removing of the misery of it.
 - A. There are two ways to remember our afflictions: rationally and emotionally.
 1. To remember them *rationally* is a blessing because we can remember them with humility, gratitude, and praise to God and we can be a help to others who face similar things, Ps 9.11-14; 103.1-5
 2. But to remember them *emotionally* is a hardship because every memory brings pain and bitterness and anger with it, which hinders us from being helpful to others and robs us of gratitude and growth.

- B. Repentance turns such memories into blessings because it helps us see that God's forgiven the sin that brought on the trouble and that God never used the trouble as punishment but only as a remedial prod.
 1. In a way, this forgetful memory is a taste of heaven in which every memory of our sins and troubles will only fuel our eternal praise.
- C. What a blessing this is! To be able to look on our sorrows with joy and talk about our afflictions and not be afflicted, Ps 9.13-14
- D. And what a blessing we become to the Kingdom's fellow sufferers! Pray to be such a blessing to Christ's church, Ps 40.1-5

In relation to our life, vv.17-19

- I. Sin brings on nothing but darkness, gloom, and a heaviness in your soul. But repentance brings such a joy and peace with God that nothing in life can shake it.
 - A. Repentance is followed by hope, rest, and the absence of fear because it ensures us that our suffering doesn't have the last word, Rom 8.28
 - B. The impenitent are imprisoned by fear and live in a hopeless darkness. But not the penitent. God turns their darkness to light and their despair to hope, Rom 5.1-5. When we turn from sin to God, God returns our happiness to us, Mt 5.4
 - C. Repentance also gives us favor among men as they witness the grace of God at work in us, Zech 8.20-23. No man is more an image bearer of Christ than the penitent man, Lk 18.14
- II. What a storehouse of encouragements, incentives, and motives to turn—Today!—from your sins to God.
 - A. God promises the penitent all because He promises them Himself, the Chief Good, Ex 6.7
 - B. What are your sins paying you better than God freely gives to the penitent (Rom 6.23)!? —If that's even a question in your mind, then your case couldn't be more desperate.
- III. If the Lord turns you from your sins today, then seek your reward in Him and let Him fulfill all these promises as He pleases—which will surely be better than you could ever hope for, Eph 3.20-21