

IV. A QUESTION THAT ARISES FROM THE TEXT

Message # 3: HOW DO WE UNDERSTAND OUR CIRCUMSTANCES

A. Introduction

Our study is mostly in chapters 9-10. The immediate background is the ongoing debate between Job and his "friends". They have many errors and some aspects of truth as well but our discussion is not with them but with Job. We are working with a continuous monologue and the verse divisions are not so plain but in chapter 9 Job analyzes the affair and in chapter 10 he protests to God. In all of his responses to his friends, there is a sad note as well as a defiant note mingled with a petitioning note. We feel for him now many centuries later and when we think we have really paid the price (!) we should read Job and then read Jeremiah. In fact we have seen nothing yet!

B. Discussion: To understand (!) our circumstances and hard situations, the following items are gleaned in the text.

1. The Lord's presence is real...even if we are not aware of it in full measure 9:11-15
2. Dependence on Him is the key 9:16-24
3. All our circumstances are time-dependent...a fancy way to speak of things as temporary 9:25-31
4. In our relationship with the Lord...be sure to come to Him as petitioners, not directors 9:32-35 10: 1- 9

These are all repeated many times in Job...not in the same words but identical concepts. It is when Job finally grips these things (in his last discourse given to God) that he becomes healthy and finds restoration and peace.

C. Conclusion: It is not comfortable to face these things but it is certainly true that the difficulty in facing our circumstances has these roots:

1. A lack of patience
2. Slowness or unwillingness in understanding
3. A failure in being open with the Lord
4. A hesitation in accepting resolution that we may not have designed ourselves...to our own satisfaction.

But remember that, in Christ, we are more than conquerors and should live out a life of triumph in Him.

*Enjoy the Lord.
Be honest in
your relationship
with the Lord
Have to your advantage
Speak honestly*

*Be patient
Ask for help
Be honest
Take the resolution
that is available*