

has done, why was the situation so desperate? You and I are not likely to have the testimony Job had but we will still not be guaranteed a happy existence because of our good deeds. Acts of mercy, deeds of benevolence, general kindness and considerations are all in good order but they were not enough for Job and are not enough in our day as well. The question is "Why?" and we will try to pursue it!

The main textual material is Job 29-31. In these chapters we find something of the defining of his character and why God spoke so approvingly of him in the earlier chapters. He was a fine person! But the character he displayed did not give him immunity against the trials of life although the one described in this book is singular in character as I see it. Nevertheless it shows that man cannot aspire to victory in life on the basis of one's own works or accomplishments. The text is developed in this manner:

- 29: a summary of Job's services: impressive
- 30; a summary of the rejection by his peers
- 31: his plea of innocence---one of the most touching chapters in the Old Testament

2. Discussion

- a. The totality of need is too great! See the areas to which he refers and realize the enormity of the project.
- b. The appreciation of others is too minimal...it leaves one empty at almost every point.
- c. The expectation of Divine standards is too high!
- d. The understanding of depravity is too little
- e. So, in spite of all we do, we remain sinners and fall short of the glory of God. James 4:17 is the convicting word on this subject

3. Conclusion...The righteousness needed by us is that which is supplied through the work of the Lord Jesus and the Scripture puts it like this: "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." 2 Corinthians 5:21 Being right with God we should then be enabled to be right with others. Our righteousness is not enough,,that which Christ provides is enough---for all who will believe.