

their energies to a good project.

3. Adversity: what does it teach us?

Well, it teaches us that we are not all-sufficient even for good ends. We are reminded that there are powers far superior to us to whom we must be subject. When we see these powers work in the face of adversity we are truly filled with praise. It also shows us the reality of the warfare and gives us a sense of appreciation for the conflict that exists between right and wrong. It makes us keenly aware that the world hates God and so serves to remind us that we should not "love the world". We may also see that it teaches us the fallacy of reliance upon any other force or Being than our Lord.

4. Adversity: how is it met:

The text tells us. Note the following observations as being instructive to this end.

---It is met with continued efforts to walk well. Adversity does not lame us...just slows down the push for a bit.

---It is met with spiritual dedication and growth in Christ-likeness. If one gives up or gives in his continuance in service is limited and his personal assurance blighted.

---It is met with diligence...encouraging us to support and strengthn one another and continually witness to the things that are necessary and true.

C. Conclusion:

Romans 5 offers a commentary on this line and tells us how we are enabled to rejoice in tribulation. James 1 gives the same picture. The answer is ultimately the same from all passages. Adversity does not mean God has forgotten you...it means He is thinking of you and you are going into a testing that will cause you to grow. Caution, if the adversity is of your own disobedience or wrong-doing, you may still learn from it...but the lesson may be a terminal one. And, yes, don't think that the amount of adversity you receive indicates you a better or more useful Christian than