

## Can Pain Work To Our Advantage?

December 1, 2013

SELECTED SCRIPTURES

Vol. 3 Num. 44

BY Jim Bruton

### Using This Study

#### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

Notice how God wants our relationship with Him to be mirrored in our relationship with each other.

#### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

God's love and how He cares for us is clearly seen in how much He values us.

#### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Discover the personal impact of His love in the relationship of intimacy which is ours to enjoy.

### Introduction

Life is filled with pain. This has been true since Adam's rebellion. The absolute beauty and orderliness of the universe (all of creation) was marred because we invited sin into the world. Things like hurricanes, tornadoes, drought, and famine which people refer to as "acts of God" are actually the result of sin and man's rebellion. God can change anything, and He frequently alters the impact of disasters as a result of His mercy and the prayers of His people.

However, God does not do away with the awful consequences of sin, because He wants it to be obvious to us just how serious sin is. To the extent that sin has no consequences, we tend to believe that we are doing just fine, and that we have no need for God. In fact, we blame God and say that He is not loving when things don't go as we wish. He doesn't seem to understand that we always deserve the very best.

Not all pain is the direct result of our sin. But, the consequences of Adam's rebellion and of the on-going downward spiral of human culture result in people suffering and babies dying with no direct reference to their behavior. The truth remains that our lives are filled with pain. The question for us is: How will we respond? Can pain be our friend? Does pain act as a warning to instruct us? God's answer to sin and pain is Christ. Do we understand how He answers it? Do we trust Him?

## ① EXAMINE His Word

---

What do we need to hear from God? Pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in these passages:

Read **I John 1:7b** (NASB)

The blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

Read **Leviticus 17:11** (NASB)

For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.

Read **Ephesians 1:7** (NASB)

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.

Read **John 10:14a, 15b, 17b, 18** (NASB)

<sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd, . . .

<sup>15</sup> . . . and I lay down My life for the sheep.

<sup>17</sup> . . . I lay down My life so that I may take it again.

<sup>18</sup> No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.

Read **John 14:18-20** (NASB)

<sup>18</sup> "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you . . .

<sup>19</sup> . . . because I live, you will live also.

<sup>20</sup> In that day (when the Holy Spirit has come) you will know that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you.

Read **I John 1:5b-7** (NASB)

<sup>5</sup> God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

<sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

<sup>7</sup> but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us (goes on cleansing us) from all sin.

Read **Romans 6:3-5** (NASB)

<sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

<sup>4</sup> Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup> For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,



(4) After Christ's resurrection and ascension is He now seated in heaven interceding for us, or is He omnipresent (or both)?

Does Christ shed light on this when He says, **I will come to you?** Also, when He said, after the Holy Spirit comes (John 10:16-17), we will realize, **you are in Me and I am in you.** (John 10:20). How can He personally be in me and also be in you at the same time?

(5) When Christ promised, **you are in Me and I am in you,** does He mean that we were present, sharing His death? And then were we resurrected with Him to share His present life? Read Romans 6:3-5 and see if that answers some of your questions.

(6) Knowing that, as believers, we are in Christ and He is in us, does that give you a much more personal view when you read, **If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, God's Son, goes on cleansing us from all sin** (I John 1:7).

Does the picture come alive when we see how the blood system in the human body touches and supplies life, healing, and strength to every working member of our person. And, does this make clear that the cleansing blood available to us every day is His life-blood, as He personally lives in us?

(7) The two aspects of our relationship which keep us healthy are: (1) walking in the light and (2) confessing our sins (agreeing with God). Do you agree that when we allow sin to invade our lives, we have the responsibility to locate and put our finger on the "trigger point," the place where our will is in conflict with God's will? Humility and confession release the tension where the cleansing can take place. His grace will overflow, being more than sufficient for our cleansing and forgiveness.

### **③ EMBRACE His Word**

---

### **④ LIVE His Word**

---

### **SERMON NOTES**