

The Pressure of “Now”

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all... (2 Corinthians 4:17).

We must not look at life as the world around us does. The pressure of “now” is a tyrant known for its mental anxiety weighing heavily on the believer. The thoughts that emanate from this tyrant say that this is the only opportunity to get this or that. You have to move now, to grab it now, to take it now. You’ll never get another chance. This is the only chance you’ll ever get. This is the only chance you are going to have to find fulfillment. The spirit of our Adversary in the world says, “If you don't take it now, you are never going to have it come around again.” This impulse promises great things, but takes so very much. Personally, I have seen those who obey that internal impulse forsake their marriages and to decide to spend so that a new financial obligation leads to years serving a debt. Discontented people hope that this decision, whatever ‘now’ demands, can fulfill one’s dreams. Discontentment makes one feel that life is slipping away and rescue is by self. Save yourself! Do it now!

Christians are not to think that way. Scripture pictures life as a time of school, a training period. Life is where believers are being prepared for something that is incredibly great, but it is yet to come. It doesn’t come now, but beyond today and beyond this time. That preparation is passing over, saying no to that impulse to “jump” in the dark.

I don't understand all that the Lord has prepared for us, but I believe every promise about eternity is true and will be fulfilled. I can hardly wait until it happens. So don't succumb to the philosophy that you have got to have it now or you will never have another chance. The best is not offered here and now.

You can pass by many things now and be content having not taken advantage of the “sell job” of the tyrant. You know that what you will be getting, what God has promised and is sending you in your present experience, is just what you need to get you ready for what He has waiting for you when you step into eternity. So don't lose hope. Resist the urge to have it now, to do it now, because if you don't, you'll miss out.

If you are a genuine believer, are headed for those things for which we now hope, headed for life, headed for glory. All of this life is working toward that end. You

don't need to be depressed or feel that everything is useless, that you can't do anything, that you are getting too old, that you have lost your ability and so many thoughts that contribute to the pressure to have it now. Paul prays that these Christians may feel in their hearts the great hope to which his preaching and teaching has called them. It is all waiting for you on the other side of death; it is the shining hope toward which all believers are moving.

You can see from these chapters that Satan, though he has faded from the visible scene, is still there in the background, still there in the thinking and arguments of Job's comforters. Satan uses these friends as channels to beat Job down, to push him to turn away from confidence in the LORD, to become cold to the God he has trusted. The apostle Paul called this kind of Satanic work, "the flaming arrows of the evil one" (Ephesians 6:16). Flaming arrows are the accusations of the accuser against believers. In Job's case these Satanic accusations are asserted and defended by men he thought would be helpful and comfort his sorrows. Job didn't expect them to heal him, only to comfort him in the midst of his pain. Because they argued a point of their private philosophy of life, they were "miserable comforters." What a warning to believers! Let us be alert. Let us beware of becoming a channel for Satan's accusations against someone who is suffering, as Job is suffering here.

Then Job goes on to state the facts, as he understands them. He says, "All I can conclude from what I am suffering is that God hates me. God assails and tears me in his anger" (Job 16:9a). Job experiences the abandonment of those who should have loved him, those who should have above all else, wanted to relieve his pain. Instead, they have rejected him. They have added to his misery making life unbearable. He falsely ascribes responsibility for those circumstances to God: "God has turned me over to evil men and thrown me into the clutches of the wicked" (Job 16:11). Perhaps Job is having trouble balancing two doctrines, that of God's power and ability and His allowing evil. God could change things, but he didn't. He could have, but He didn't. Why doesn't God rescue righteous Job?

He has the power to do so. That is Job's question and it remains unanswered, even to our day.

Job charges God with all that is wrong in his life. Yet God is wonderfully patient. He does not turn against Job, nor does He punish him, even though he has sinned. Job accused God, and in doing so, Job diminished the glory of God. He made God look badly to others, which is a grievous sin. God has great mercy! If you are ready to stop arguing with God, God is ready to be merciful to you. Come to Him. Allow God to be God. Trust His wisdom to care for you.