

Week 44
299/66

Transforming Daily
“...why is light given...”
Job 3:20

Job ponders why light is given to those in misery. Philosophically he is basically asking why a condemned man would be offered hope in vain. He compares light in times of adversity to that of one seemingly without hope seeking hard for death, but unable to die. Job's thoughts underscore two things. One of the things Job's thoughts underscore is that God is in control of life not man. A second thing that Job's thoughts underscore is that God has a purpose for mankind, in general, and Job specifically, therefore, He has a sovereign plan for one's life as well.

Why is light given? Light is given that one might see. The problem is sometimes people don't want to see what is really there. Literally, light can reveal a path to safety, and if intensified enough, cut through hardened steel. Placed just right, light can reveal one's complexion on the outside or potential complications on the inside. Philosophically speaking, light brings understanding, knowledge, and perhaps enlightenment. Spiritually applied, light brings eternal life through Jesus Christ.

I had a professor who once told me never to doubt in the darkness (of adversity) of what I was certain of in the light (of contentment). What I learned from that axiom is that in life decisions have to be made. Not all decisions will be easy. Every decision has consequences. Adversity and conflict may be part of the consequences. But just because unfavorable circumstances arises directly or indirectly related to the decision doesn't mean that the decision itself was wrong and that the adversity isn't a part of the bigger picture.

Another reason that light might be given in times of adversity is for the believer to use it to show forth the strength of God through his or her weaknesses. In other words, the believer reflects the light of Christ in such a way as to become a beacon or a lighthouse for those in life's troubled seas. An illustration would be a Coast Guard vessel experiencing the same treacherous waters to give aid to those who are in peril.

Does the light of Christ shine forth from your life? Do you see the bigger picture of God for your life of which adversity is a small and temporary part? Is the strength of God seen through your weakness? Or are you wondering, "Why is light given?"