

“Can a Man Be Profitable . . .?”

Job 22:1-30

This is the third and last discourse from Eliphaz, and it is the same old argument – that Job’s problems are because of his sin. As before, what Eliphaz says is true, for the most part, it just didn’t apply to Job. He makes some wonderful statements about the mercy of God of which we should all take notice. He also makes some valid arguments about the wicked, and how God deals with them, and how they deal with God.

I. WHO ARE WE TO GOD? – VS. 1-4

A. Eliphaz is dealing with what he perceived as arrogance in Job’s answer to Zophar and he asks Job a series of questions that would point out this arrogance.

B. The first question is where the title of this message comes from in verse 2 and Eliphaz is asking Job who he thought he was to come across as being so important to God that God couldn’t do without him.

C. He then asks him if he thought God thought so highly of him (Job) that any amount of righteousness (self-righteousness is what Eliphaz meant) would please the Almighty, or that God would somehow gain because of Job’s self-acclaimed perfection.

D. The thing is, our righteousness (that which is based on Christ) does, in fact, please the Almighty, and He actually

does gain if we live right, for He is glorified, and that is our duty.

E. So, to the point of the question in this point – “Who are we to God?” – are we like Eliphaz, quick to point out other’s sins, quick to judge? Or, are we what we should be – righteous and perfect (holy) and bringing glory to God?

II. WHO ARE WE TO OTHERS? – vs. 5-11

A. Eliphaz describes what he believes Job’s sins are in these verses. He may have some knowledge of particulars that are not seen in the text but what he says here is pretty generic.

B. Although Job may or may not have been guilty of these sins, it is sure we shouldn’t be.

C. As to the question proposed in this point – “Who are we to others?” – we should be like our Lord was while on earth, willing to give of ourselves, and all we have, for the benefit of others, especially if it means their salvation.

III. WHO IS GOD TO US? – vs. 12-30

A. In view of the sinner that rejects God – vs. 12-20

1. Eliphaz was ridiculing Job here, thinking that Job perceived God so high above man that He didn’t keep track of what was going on – vs. 12-14.

Proverbs 15:3

³ The eyes of the LORD are in every place,
beholding the evil and the good.

2. He is asking Job if he didn't remember his history, how that God has always dealt with His enemies – vs. 15-20.

B. In view of the sinner that accepts God – vs. 21-30

1. Get to know Him – vs. 21 – “acquaint now thyself with Him”.
2. Get to know His Word – vs. 22 – “receive...the law from his mouth.”
3. Get to know His mercy – vs. 23-30 – “return to the Almighty.”

Conclusion: Are we profitable to God? Are we profitable to others? Is God profitable to us?