

Job #16 (Chapter 17)

I. First, Let us Look at verses 1 - 3

- A. Verse 1 (note it follows 16:22) shows Job thinking his life is ending
 - 1. His spirit is consumed (His vitals are dying or corruption is taking over)
 - 2. His days are extinct (Like candle ready to go out – days are cut off)
 - 3. Literally “The graves are ready for me” –Everywhere he steps is death
- B. Verse 2 is variously translated- His comforters are actually mocking him
- C. Verse 3 – Job asking God to “Lay down a pledge for me with Yourself”
 - 1. Job is asking God to “appoint” a pledge (Exodus 1:11, 21:13)
 - 2. Word pledge (awrab) means something given in security
 - a. 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13, 14
 - 3. Who will “strike hands”–we would say “shake hands” or “Strike a deal”
 - 4. God answers this prayer of Job by the giving of His Son- Heb. 7:21
 - a. Christ becomes the guarantee on part of God (2 Cor. 1:20)
 - b. But also guarantee on our part (2 Cor. 5:19) – doing what we can’t
 - 5. If God appoints surety- then no one can contend – Rom. 8:33, 34
 - 6. Answers Job’s prayer in 16:21 – One to plead to God- Jer. 30:21
 - a. Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:24, 25

II. Then Let Us Look at verses 4 - 6

- A. V. 4 – Job says comforters have their heart hidden from understanding
 - 1. Scripture says God is the One who determines what man understands
 - 2. Arminians have trouble with this- it goes against their idea of fairness
 - a. Bible teaches unbeliever can’t understand things of God(1 Cor. 2:14)
- B. There are various ways we find that God hides and reveals truth
 - 1. Gospel of Christ is obviously not preached in all places
 - 2. Some people are cut off before they can hear the truth
 - 3. God hides truth by presenting it in ways that aren’t obvious
 - a. Parables, allegories, types, figures – Matthew 13:10, 11
 - 4. Scripture also teaches that God reveals truth to whom He will
 - a. Matthew 11:25, 26; Matthew 16:15 – 17; Ephesians 1:17, 18
 - b. Luke 24:15,16,30,31- Jesus reveals things that had been hidden
 - c. 2 Cor. 4:3,4 –It is God who decides who will receive light of gospel
 - 5. Scripture also teaches us that God will blind whom He will
 - a. Matthew 11:25 – Isaiah 6:9, 10; Jesus quotes in Mark 4:11, 12
 - 1. Speaks in parables so that people will not understand
 - b. God can blind by retracting light He gave before – Rom. 1:21, 22
- C. In verse 5 Job is speaking either against flattery or selling out friends
- D. Verse 6 – Job says he has become a proverb- James 5:11

III. Then Let Us Look at verses 7 - 9

- A. Verse 7 is another expression of the severity of Job’s trial
- B. V. 8 shows even most righteous can be surprised at God’s providence
 - 1. Many things in providence are beyond us – Eccls 7:15; Rom 11:33, 34
- C. V. 9 gives first a great reaffirmation of truth of perseverance of saints
 - 1. Hypocrites will stumble at providences of God – Matthew 13:20, 21
- D. Then last statement tells us that person with clean hands will be strong
 - 1. Psalm 24: 3, 4; Proverbs 28:1; Isaiah 40:30, 31