

Divine Purpose for Adversity

Review: Divine Perspective about Adversity: Expected, beneficial, controlled, embrace

God is a perfect Person with a perfect plan that He is implementing in the lives of his children. Everything he does and allows is perfectly designed and has a purpose. His perfect plan includes all that we would consider pleasant and all that we would consider adversity. Adversity in our lives for a two fold purpose:

- **Spiritual Growth** – Renewal of the mind; Preparation for ministry;
- **God’s Glory** – Proving validity of God’s Word;

1. Growth – spiritual growth unto maturity

(James 1:2-4) Adversity producing endurance producing maturity

Vs 2 – Consider – Divine viewpoint – conclusion: adversity is an occasion for rejoicing

Vs 2 – Brethren – God only uses adversity for growth in the life of believers – not unbelievers

Vs 2 – fall into – **peripipto** – suddenly surrounded - Lk 10:30 – man surprised by robbers

- Different areas are breached at once – when it rains it pours

Vs 3 – knowing – **ginosko** P.A.Ptc (inst ptc) – knowledge available for application

- Pres Ptc – occurs at the same time as main verb “consider” – the conclusion that adversity is a reason to rejoice is based on accurate knowledge of God’s purpose for it
- Inst Ptc – the means by which something is accomplished – accurate knowledge of God’s purpose for adversity as the resource from which legitimate conclusions are reached.

Vs 3 – testing – **dokimion** – process of heating & purifying gold - proving, validating, approval

- Goldsmith superheats raw ore causing other metals to surface to be scooped away – pure
- Proving/validation – your faith/word is superheated to determine its validity/genuine
- Your faith and the word/God is put to the test by adversity – God’s word is proven pure

Vs 3 – faith – both your faith attached to the word/God and the word itself are tested

Vs 3 – produces – **katergazomai** – produce under pressure – hammer out

Vs 3 – endurance – **hupomone** – remain under the weight – determined persistence

- Adversity is sp exercise to build the **strength** for greater exercise – spiritual stamina
- Adversity is sp practice to develop the **skill** of endurance – increasing confidence in God

Vs 4 – Let it have – echo – PAImpv – keep on using the strength & skill of endurance

Vs 4 – complete work – proving-faith/word **à** endurance **à** complete work **à** maturity

- Sp skill of endurance enables us to stay in the game to develop the wisdom of maturity

Vs 4 – you may be – **hina + eimi** PA Subj – you may reach the state, status

- **Hina** – purpose clause - purpose of adversity in the life of the believer
- **Eimi** – state of being – subj – potential – you may attain a state of maturity

Vs 4 – mature – complete, entire, perfect, at the end – state of having assembled wisdom & skill

Vs 4 – complete – **olokleros** – having all its parts – accomplished in all aspects of CWL

Vs 4 – lacking nothing – **leipo** – to be without, to fall short – Vs 5 – lacking wisdom

- a. Adversity - sp exercise/opportunity to build strength & develop application skills in CWL
- b. Core skill in growth – endurance: confidence in God having experienced His faithfulness
- c. Endurance enables us to persist in the faith cycle until God completes His promise
- d. Endurance + greater adversity builds maturity in every aspect, lacking nothing
- e. Reason for joy: Sp maturity is the state were blessing, victory & impact is evident

2. Capacity for Compassionate Ministry

2Cor 1:3-6 – Suffering to prepare us to comfort others who suffer

Vs 3 – blessed – **eulogetos** – worthy of praise & glorification

Vs 3 – Father of compassions – **oiktirmos** – lit intestines – that part of the body where the emotion of compassion is experienced – sympathy, empathy, mercy – pity - suffering of others

- Compassion involves both the mind and the emotions – emotions respond
- Compassion – identification, i.e. empathy with the pain of those who suffer
- God is the author and source of care and concern for the suffering of others

Vs 3 – all comfort – **paraklesis** – encouragement, consolation, and exhortation

Vs 4 – the One who comforts us – God is our source of comfort when we suffer

Vs 4 – all our affliction – epi + thlipsis – tribulation, adversities – all comfort for all adversities

- Epi – upon the all the occasions that we are surrounded by adversity

Vs 4 – eis + accusative + Pinf dunamai & parakaleo – to the end; for the purpose

- Adversity **à** God's comfort **à** to this end; for this purpose
- Dunamai – Pres Inf (purpose/result) – power - to be able, to have the ability
- Parakaleo – Pres Inf (purpose/result) – encourage – to be able to comfort/encourage

Vs 4 – through the same comfort by which God has comforted us.

Vs 5 – As suffering increases so the comfort increases

- a. Adversity is programmed for our growth – God provides comfort/encouragement
- b. Adversities are universal – we all experience most of the same hurdles
- c. God's comfort is universal – God comforts us all in the same way
- d. Adversity is allowed **à** comfort is provided **à** prepares us to help others
- e. Adversity and God's comfort is a necessary part of preparation for ministry

3. Glorification of God

(Job 1:11; 2:5) God & Satan contend over the behavior of Job under adversity

Satan – (Job.1:11) take away his possessions: He will curse you to your face; (Job.2:5) take away his health and he will curse you to your face

- Satan rejected God's authority **à** God condemned him **à** cursed God to His face
- Satan's strategy: if he can induce bel's to curse God, he believes he can justify his actions
- God's glory – when we suffer, knowing God is in control, and remain loyal, God uses our example of loyalty to demonstrate what Satan could have chosen.

(John 11:1-46) Lazarus become sick, dies & is resuscitated for the glory of God

- 11:1-3 – Lazarus is sick; the sisters send word to Jesus to come heal him
- 11:4 – not unto death – for the glory of God & the glory of the Son of God
- 11:5-44 – Lazarus dies, was buried and brought back from the grave
- 11:45 – many of the Jews who has witnessed the event believed in Him
- The event of Lazarus' adversity was for a purpose – that God might be glorified

(John 15:1-8)

- 15:1 – Jesus is the vine and GF cares for the vine
- 15:2 – no fruit – raises up; bearing fruit – He prunes (cleanses) that it might bear more fruit
- 15:8 – GF is glorified by us bearing much fruit and proving to be His disciples
- God prunes those branches that bear fruit so they will produce more fruit - adversity
- Max production of fruit = max glorification of God and Christ