

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Affliction

"It is not affliction itself, but affliction rightly borne, that does us good." – Aughey

"Affliction, like the iron-smith, shapes as it smites." – Christian Nestell Bovee

"Affliction comes to us all, not to make us sad, but sober; not to make us worry, but wise... It is a trial that proves one thing weak and another strong... A cobweb is as good as the mightiest cable when there is no strain upon it." – Henry Ward Beecher

"The wisdom of God appears in afflictions. By those He separates the sin which He hates, from the son whom He loves. By these thorns He keeps him from breaking over into Satan's pleasant pastures, which fatten him indeed, but only to the slaughter." – Aughey

For years there have been prayers led in congregations for "the sick and the afflicted." It could be that such words were used out of tradition, but one wonders about that word *afflicted*?

In Webster's second definition, he says it means, "To distress so severely as to cause persistent suffering or anguish." That certainly makes affliction sound very unpleasant indeed.

Were you aware that there are some 49 references in sacred writings to those who were afflicted? And in some instances, it seems to imply that affliction is a good thing?

"Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word" (Psa. 119:67).

"It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes" (Psa. 119:71).

This sounds very similar to the words of James. "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience" (James 1:2-3).

No one likes to think of facing adversity in their life. But if we had a life that was void of problems, we would never grow stronger. It is often out of these difficulties that we draw closer to God and are strengthened in our faith.

We may not want to admit it, but often it is the serious trials and adversities that we face that help us stay on the narrow road that leads to life. Without these afflictions, we may well find ourselves seeing no need for God.

When these afflictions arise, and they will, it is what we do with them that will make all the difference. They can either help us draw nearer to God, or we can allow them to push Him away. May we allow these situations to help us to indeed draw near to God and keep His Word.