

Some Day It will be Alright

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet sources)

Introduction:

A. Ecc. 8:12-14

1. "People who have only good experiences aren't very interesting. They may be content, and happy after a fashion, but they aren't very deep. Depth of character and quality of life comes to those who have experienced, not only great blessings, but great bereavement as well."
2. "We have no right to ask when sorrow comes, 'Why did this happen to me?' unless we ask the same question for every moment of happiness that comes our way. A happy life is not void of sorrow; sometimes things must fall apart in order for other things to fall into place."
3. "If you see ten troubles coming down the road, you can be sure that nine will run into the ditch before they reach you. Yet you must bear the tenth with courage and purpose. If you can find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere."
4. Solomon wants us to understand that, for God's children, everything will be alright in the end. If everything is not alright, then it is not the end.

B. Everything is not alright in this fallen world

1. In Maryland in 1987, an Amtrak engineer was smoking marijuana, drinking, and not paying attention to the warning lights on the track. As a result, he allowed his passenger train to collide with a freight train. Dozens of people were killed or seriously injured. The engineer served only five years in prison.
2. In Kentucky in 2003, a drunk driver hit a church bus head on. The fuel tank on the bus ruptured and 27 people, mostly teenagers, were burned to death. The drunk driver served only nine years and is now free.
3. It is hard to say with strong conviction: "Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and his days are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him" (Ecc. 8:12).

I. THE PROBLEM THAT BOTHERS US

A. The question that has plagued the heart of man since the days of the ancients: "Why do the righteous suffer while the wicked prosper?" - Ecc. 8:14

1. It is a frequently addressed theme in the Book of Job
2. It is the focus of Psalm 73 of Asaph, who nearly gives up as he witnesses the prosperity of the wicked and the trials of the righteous.
3. Psalm 37 & 49 also addresses this matter.

B. The concept that serving God confers to the believer immunity from trials has tempted many Christians to become disillusioned and abandon the faith.

1. Immunity from trials for the believer is not a Bible doctrine
2. The blessings given the righteous are spiritual and the preservation of the Lord is for the eternal soul, not the physical body
3. If we are not careful when trials begin to multiply in our lives, we might come to the same misguided conclusion as Solomon in Ecc. 1:2, 2:23
4. Job 14:1; John 16:33

II. THE PROMISE THAT BLESSES US

- A. Trials and sorrows are not unaccompanied by blessings and joy
 - 1. Abraham's offering of Isaac - his eternal reputation for faith
 - a. Gen. 22:16-18; Rom. 4:20-24
 - 2. Job's suffering - his eternal reputation for patience
 - a. James 5:11
 - 3. Paul's imprisonment - the conviction of his guards and the courage of other evangelists
 - a. Phil. 1:12-14
 - 4. Jesus' agony and death on the cross - His eternal glory and our eternal salvation
 - a. Phil. 2:8-11; Rev. 1:5-6
- B. What has God planned for you on the other side of your hardship?
 - 1. Rom. 8:31-32; 2Cor. 4:17; Jer. 29:11; John 10:28; Heb. 7:25

Conclusion:

- A. "Sorrow can lead us into one of four lands: the barren land in which we try to escape from it; the broken land in which we sink under it; the bitter land in which we resent it; or the better land in which we bear it and become a blessing to others" (J. W. Bramhall).