

Why Pain?

10/5/14

What pain? Why pain? How to respond to pain?

Acts 14:19 But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, (*to Lystra*) and having won over the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.

²⁰ But while the disciples stood around him, he arose and entered the city. And the next day he went away with Barnabas to Derbe.

²¹ And after they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch,

²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and *saying*, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

²³ And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

²⁴ And they passed through Pisidia and came into Pamphylia.

²⁵ And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia;

²⁶ and from there they sailed to Antioch, from which they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had accomplished.

²⁷ And when they had arrived and gathered the church together, they *began* to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

²⁸ And they spent a long time with the disciples.

James 1:1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad, greetings.

² Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

⁴ And let endurance have *its* perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

⁵ But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

⁶ But let him ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

⁷ For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,

⁸ *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

⁹ But let the brother of humble circumstances glory in his high position;

¹⁰ and *let* the rich man *glory* in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away.

¹¹ For the sun rises with a scorching wind, and withers the grass; and its flower falls off, and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.

¹² Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.

¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

¹⁵ Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

¹⁷ Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow.

¹⁸ In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures.

¹⁹ *This* you know, my beloved brethren. But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak *and* slow to anger;

²⁰ for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

²¹ Therefore putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

²² But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

James 1:27 This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world.

2:1 My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with *an attitude of* personal favoritism.

² For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes,

³ and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,"

⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?

⁵ Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court?

⁷ Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?

⁸ If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law, according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

James 2:15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food,

¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that?

James 3:8 But no one can tame the tongue; *it is* a restless evil *and* full of deadly poison.

⁹ With it we bless *our* Lord and Father; and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;

¹⁰ from the same mouth come *both* blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.

James 3:14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.

¹⁵ This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.

¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

James 4:1 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?

² You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.

³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

⁴ You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

⁵ Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"?

⁶ But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

⁷ Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

⁹ Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy to gloom.

¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

¹¹ Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother, or judges his brother, speaks against the law, and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge *of it*.

James 5:1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you.

² Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten.

³ Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure!

⁴ Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, *and* which has been withheld by you, cries out *against you*; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

⁵ You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.

⁶ You have condemned and put to death the righteous *man*; he does not resist you.

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.

⁸ You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

⁹ Do not complain, brethren, against one another, that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

¹⁰ As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

¹¹ Behold, we count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and *is* merciful.

¹² But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but let your yes be yes, and your no, no; so that you may not fall under judgment.

¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praises.

¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;

¹⁵ and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.