

HOPE IN A HOPELESS SITUATION

Psalm 92:12-15

INTRODUCTION: How can we give the people that our Lord brings into our lives real hope when their situation seems to be hopeless? 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. Yes we have been through some seemingly hopeless situations ourselves and our God has brought us comfort during our very trying times. Isaiah 43:18-19. We all like to think that everything is under control. We want to believe that for every problem we have we can find the answer. But when we hear those words from our doctor: "I am sorry but there is no hope."

I. WHEN THERE IS NO HOPE WITH MAN THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE WITH OUR GOD!

With man it is during our youth and our times of physical strength that we think we do our greatest works. But with our God things are a little different: Romans 15:13; Psalm 92:12-15. The date palm tree bears fruit right up to the last year of its life. In fact the very best fruit is on the last year of a date palm's life. Our best witness for our Lord can come in those last years of our lives: Psalm 78:1-4. Often in our youth we give ourselves too much credit for what we are able to accomplish but as we age we learn Who really should get all the praise: 1 Corinthians 4:7.

II. THE LORD GIVES AND THE LORD TAKES AWAY!

So often we have to learn over time that it is not us, it is our Lord that gives us the strength to accomplish anything in our lives. The Lord has told us the kind of person He delights in: Jeremiah 9:23-24. It is easy to boast about what we have done when we are young and in good health but it is also true that in our old age as our health is failing that it is much easier to boast in our Lord and what He has chosen to do through us. Psalm 147:10-11. In our youth and in our health we think anything that slows down our progress is against us. But in God's wisdom as we age we come to know that it is certainly not the case: 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10. As we help those who are older and facing death know that their very sickness and soon coming death can and will be used by their Lord to help others come to know and trust in Him also it will bring joy and hope from the God of hope!

III. THE WEAVER!

Our God is the Weaver in our lives. He does indeed allow all kinds of sorrow and pain into our lives but always with His purpose in mind: Romans 8:28-29. Our sorrow can lead us into four different lands: 1. The barren land; which we try to escape from. 2. The broken land; in which we sink under the load of pain. 3. The bitter land; in which we resent our pain. 4. The better land; in which we bear it and become a blessing to others. We must learn to stop focusing on our own sorrows and accept God's comfort in them so they can reach out to others in time of their need. The very best comforters are those who have received God's comfort and know how to share that blessing with others. Our God comforts us to make us comforters, not just to make us comfortable. Romans 15:13; Psalm 23:1-6.

