

CHRONIC PAIN

Job 2:1-8

INTRODUCTION: Chronic pain may be the result of an injury or an illness. It persists at least a month or longer after the body has healed. Chronic pain can go on for months or even years and it affects your daily life. Chronic pain can impact the way you sleep, work, move and do common tasks. Chronic pain can take control of your life and change your outlook and moods. It affects not only the one suffering with chronic pain but their family and acquaintances as well. The most common sources of chronic pain are musculoskeletal pain, arthritis and back pain.

I. JOB'S CHRONIC PAIN!

Chronic pain has been in the human family for thousands of years. Job, experienced physical, mental, and emotional pain over a long period of time. When Job experienced the loss of all ten of his children and his wealth both on the same day, Job did not sin by charging God with wrong doing: Job 1:20-22. However, Satan understands the power of chronic pain even in the life of a man like Job: Job 2:1-8. Job's wife counselled him to curse God and die but Job maintained his integrity: Job 2:9-10. However, as the chronic pain continued Job did eventually curse the day of his birth: Job 3:1-8. Chronic pain wears you down. As the days go forward and there is no relief you try to confess all your sin just in case that is the cause. However, after you have confessed all your sin the pain remains.

II. NOT ALL PAIN COMES BECAUSE OF OUR PERSONAL SIN!

Often after we have confessed all our sin we learn a lesson about chronic pain that Job also learned; that is that not all chronic pain is a result of our own personal sin. Jesus our Lord talked about that: John 9:1-3. Our God will at times allow us problems like chronic pain to develop patience in us: James 1:2-4. At other times when we experience chronic pain it may come to teach us to keep God's precepts: Psalm 119:67-68;71-72; 75-76.

III. CHRONIC PAIN MAY LEAD US TO GREATER SANCTIFICATION!

Our Lord may use the chronic pain He allows in our lives to lead us to greater sanctification: Hebrews 12:5-11. We are told in verses 5-6 to neither make light of God's discipline, including chronic pain, nor to lose heart because of it. We may use medicine to help with the pain: 1 Timothy 5:23. The apostle Paul teaches us that chronic pain can be used of our God to help us stay faithful: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. Even when you think you cannot endure your pain, guess what? Through Jesus Christ you can endure and prosper: 2 Corinthians 1:8-11. Paul learned and so can we to fix our eyes on what is eternal: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. One day all our sufferings will be things of the past: Revelation 21:1-4. As we learn along with the apostle Paul to focus on the eternal we too can learn to be content in any and every situation: Philippians 4:10-13.

IV. OUR LORD CAN RELEASE US FROM CHRONIC PAIN HERE AND NOW!

Another important lesson is that our Lord can and may release us from chronic pain here and now. Jesus released a woman from chronic pain who had lived with it for eighteen years: Luke 13:10-17. If you have given into bad days of grumbling and growling don't despair or give up, come to the Mercy Seat of God's grace and seek the help you need: Hebrews 4:14-16. Our God may choose to heal you of your chronic pain or He may give you faith as He did the apostle Paul so you can choose to rejoice in your pain and trust God to work in you for your growth and God's glory.