

## Handout- Job Chapter 17

### **Review**

#### **In Chapter 15**

- Eliphaz challenges Job, and accuses him of being full of hot air
- Eliphaz accuses Job of losing his fear of God (15:4)
- Eliphaz accuses Job of being guilty because he is acting guilty
- Eliphaz perceives that Job is responding in the same way one would respond if he was really guilty because he seems to be overly asserting his innocence
- Eliphaz falls into the error of assuming his conclusion that Job is guilty because it fits his construct of the divine retribution principle

#### **In Chapter 16**

- Job is disappointed that his friends have been such miserable comforters
- The fact that his friends keep arguing with Job strongly suggests that they are NOT sure that they are correct; they are actually fearful themselves of God's judgment
- In verse 7-14 Job accuses God of having framed him as an evil doer by afflicting him
- Job can't see God's goodness because Job's perception is limited to what he can see with his eyes and feel with his senses
- We CANNOT figure out what is going on by simply using our senses
- We need SPECIAL REVELATION

In chapter 17, Job completes his rebuttal of Eliphaz and the other friends.

#### **Job 17:1–5**

- Verse 1
  - Job's pessimistic outlook
  - He is ready to die and expects to die soon
- Verses 2, 4
  - Job refutes the closed system of the modern world view
- Verse 5
  - Job uses an ancient proverb to accuse his friends (Deut. 19:15-21)
- Verse 3
  - Another wish stated: someone who could offer a pledge on Job's behalf

**Q:** What is the irony of this wish?

See 2 Cor. 1:21–22, Eph. 1:13–14, Eph. 4:30, 2 Cor. 5:1–5.

### **Job 17:6–10**

- Verses 6-7
  - Job again explains the depth of his suffering
  - Observes that others regard him with contempt
- Verses 8-9
  - Job pictures his friends as being “upright” in their OWN eyes, and of being appalled at Job’s sinfulness
  - Job observes that the “righteous” friends who have “clean hands” grow stronger and stronger in their conviction that they are right
  - The friends are not open to even considering the possibility that DR principle might not apply to Job’s case

Contemporary example: evolution (Romans 1:20–23)

Apart from the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit in the life of a man, man will do anything and construct any theory necessary to enable him to deny the existence of God.

### **Job 17:11–16**

- Verses 11, 13, 14
  - Job reiterates the degree of his own despair in his severe suffering
- Verse 12
  - Another jibe against Job’s friends
  - His friends have got it exactly backward in the same way as light is the opposite of dark
  - Job is the righteous one (though he is suffering) while the friends are the guilty ones (though they are at ease)
- Verses 15-16
  - Settled hopelessness defines Job’s thinking about his own fate
  - Job does not know about his redeemer

Unlike Job, we have abundant grounds for hope.

Romans 5:1–5, Romans 15:4–6, Titus 2:11–14, 1 John 3:2–3