



THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD

CHRIST THE LORD PARISH

1-5 ADMIRALITY ROAD, LEKKI PHASE 1, LEKKI

Digging Deep

THEME: Divine Acceleration

TOPIC: Clarifying Misconceptions in Christianity (Part 1)

DATE: Tuesday, February 4, 2025

TEXT: John 9: 1 - 3

INTRODUCTION:

Sincere appreciation to our Daddy, the APICR Region 11, and the entire Pastorate for this opportunity given me to teach in today's Digging Deep. I also want to appreciate the Pastorate for the wisdom to provide teachings to clarify misconceptions in Christianity. There are quite a number of them, and together we will deal with them. Please feel free to bring to our attention any misconception that you will like us to discuss too so that they can be included in future teachings.

These misconceptions are mostly half-truths and misleading because there are Bible passages and Biblical examples to even support them. But when we take a more critical and holistic look at them, we begin to see the truth and get clarity based on the Word of God, our only guide. May the Lord continue to enlighten our hearts with His Word in Jesus name, Amen.

OUTLINE 1: CHALLENGES AND DIFFICULTIES ARE A SIGN OF SIN

Discussion

1. The truth is that sin has very serious consequences and can bring challenges and difficulties Prov. 29:1

We have many Biblical examples to support this including but not limited to:

- i. How God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah because of their sins. Gen. 18:20-19:21
- ii. How God destroyed the world with flood because of sin. Gen 6:5-7; 2Pet. 2:4-6; 2Pet. 3:6
- iii. The Prodigal son who suffered because of his foolish choices: Luke 15:17-20
- iv. Samson who suffered because he married a strange woman against God's plan for his life. Judges 16:21-31
- v. Saul who suffered because he disobeyed God's clear instructions. 1Sam. 15:20-35
- vi. Eli whose house lost the priesthood because of weak parenting, and his inability to effectively rebuke and control his erring sons. 1Sam. 3:13-14

2. Can we therefore then say because of the above examples that ALL challenges and difficulties are a sign of sin?

i) What of the man that was born blind. Jn. 9:1-3. While Jesus' disciples believed this was definitely a sign of sin, Jesus clarified that this wasn't the case, but rather an opportunity for God's name to be glorified.

ii) What of Job - Job 1-3. God boasted about him to the devil, that he was a man who feared God and eschewed all evil, yet he went through the most terrible human tragedy of his days.

iii) What of Abraham and Sarah who waited for 25 years before the promised child came, despite living a life that pleased God. Their delay was definitely not a sign of sin. Gen 21:5

iv) What of Hannah who was considered barren and mocked by her mate until God answered her prayers. Hannah was a devout Christian and her delay was definitely not a sign of sin.

1 Sam 1:1-10

- v) What do we make of Apostle James' admonition that we should count it all joy when we go through trials because God is using it to build us up spiritually and strengthen us. James 1:1-5.
- vi) And King David's admonition that "many are the afflictions of the righteous...". Ps. 34:19
- vii) Then Jesus' admonition that "...in this world we will have trials and tribulations...". John 16:33

It is very clear from the above that sin definitely has consequences, but it is a misconception and very misleading to ascribe all challenges and difficulties that believers go through to sin.

OUTLINE 2: IF I AM DOING WELL DESPITE LIVING IN SIN, IT MEANS GOD IS PLEASED WITH ME.

Discussion

- i) There is a principle that guarantees success in any endeavour. Anyone who follows the true and genuine principles of success will always succeed. Prov. 22:29
- ii) God always delights in the success and prosperity of His children. 3John 1-3
- iii) But God hates sin and is never pleased with a life of sin. Rom. 6:1-2,14,23
- iv) In fact, any believer who is proud of a life of sin is not yet born again. 1Cor. 5:17
- v) Because the Bible tells us "What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul". Mark 8:36
- vi) God gives the sinner a long rope to repent because He doesn't want any to go to hell. 2Pet. 3:9
- vii) And we know that "He that is often been reprov'd, yet hardens his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed and that without remedy". Prov. 29:1
- viii) We should never abuse grace nor take God's grace for granted. Rom. 6:1-2
- ix) The reward for sin has not changed. We should not envy the prosperity of the wicked. Ps. 73:3-19; Lk 12:13-21
- x) The wealth of the gentiles (wicked/Sinners) is laid up for the righteous. Prov 13:21-22

OUTLINE 3: GOD WILL ONLY ANSWER THE PRAYERS OF PASTORS AND MINISTERS

- I) "For **EVERYONE** that knocks, the door will be opened...". Matt. 7:8
- II) "**ALL** that come to me I will in no wise cast out". Matt. 11:28
- III) "The effectual fervent prayer of the **RIGHTEOUS** availeth much". James 5:16
- IV) The woman with the issue of blood was an **ORDINARY WOMAN** who received her healing by exercising faith in Jesus. She touched Jesus by faith. Matt. 9:20-22; Mark 5:28-29
- V) **ANYONE** who is righteousness that can be violent in prayers and will **PUSH** (pray until something happens) will get answers to their prayers. Matt. 11:12
- VI) Therefore, Pastors and Ministers, just like any other believers, who pray in faith, will get answers to their prayers.

CONCLUSION

Let us walk with the right understanding we now have about these 3 misconceptions. Instead of judging and condemning ourselves when we go through challenges and difficulties, let us show love, encouragement, support and pray for one another. Your prayers are very powerful and effective because God answers them. Please make sure you pray in faith and live a life that please God always so that your prayers will always be answered. Above all, do not take God's grace for granted. Repent of any known sin and change your ways while you have life because "it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement" (Hebs 9:27). Begin to live a life of holiness and be diligent in your work, career or business and you will be amazed how much more God will bless and prosper you this year. God bless you.