

The Dangers of Passivity Towards Sin (Part 3):
The Agony of Sin and the Agony of Loving God
Genesis 3:16-19; Psalm 42:1-11

- *What is agony?* It is an intense pain of mind or body. It is a violent struggle or contest. It is the uncomfortability of two intense adversaries waging war against one another.
 - In this life, at times, sin brings temporary pleasure that will lead, without repentance and surrender, to an eternal agony. Loving God, at times, will lead to temporary agony, in putting sin to death, that will lead to an ever growing eternal pleasure. *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). “Or do you presume on the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance. But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, He will give eternal life, but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury” (Romans 2:4-8).*
- Psalm 42: *How do I glorify God in the agony of striving to love God?*
 - The sons of Korah were the worship leaders of the Levitical priesthood (2 Chronicles 20:19). This Psalm was a song of worship in the midst of agony. A Maskil, to the best of our knowledge, is a poem of instruction that has been properly constructed.
 - (42:1-2) The deer is panting because it is being hunted. In the midst of our agony we must want God more than we want to escape. God is known deeper in our agony than in ease (Psalm 119:67-72). I want to see, enjoy, and delight in God in this circumstance. It is through God’s means of grace that I taste eternal pleasure (prayer, bible reading, corporate worship, communion, fellowship).
 - (42:3-4) The duration of this struggle has been a long time. It is so painful that people look and say that they couldn't be blessed if this is going on. *“Where is your God?”* He is so depressed that he feels like crying all the time. But he thinks about the goodness of God and remembers the corporate worship of God and the congregation singing and hearing and affirming the truths of God! He can't wait to be at “church”.

“Praise completes our enjoyment of something. The larger the congregation of praisers the higher the capacity of joy in our praising.”
 - (42:5-6) Are we listening to ourselves or are we speaking to ourselves? We must speak to ourselves in despair and frustration. We must speak truth to ourselves. We must not let any hurt, despair, or difficulty get in our way of proclaiming what is biblically true. When we feel far from God we must remember God. Ourself lies to us, depresses us, scares us, and overwhelms us. We must tell ourselves the truth. Most of our unhappiness is because we listen to ourselves instead of speaking to ourselves. *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?” (Jeremiah 17:9)*
 - (42:7-8) God is sovereign over this suffering. There is purpose in this hardship. There is purpose in the continual tears, doubts, anxiety, fear. He is drowning, but he is fighting. He believes God loves Him. He believes there is a song to sing. He believes God is his only hope of life. Christians sing in prosperity and suffering.
 - (42:9-11) His head and his heart are not running parallel. “God you are my rock” and “God why have you forgotten me?” He is deep in this despair. He *feels* like he is dying. He *feels* like God has forsaken Him. He responds to this by speaking truth to himself: “Self, why are you in turmoil within me?”

(continued →)

Worship: God Is For Us (By: City Alight) God Omniscient, God All Knowing (By: Matt Boswell)
From Everlasting (Psalm 90) (By: Sovereign Grace Music)

Closing Song: Satisfied In You (Psalm 42) (By: The Sing Team)

Service Times: Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;
Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

hope in God.”, “Self, I will genuinely, passionately, joyfully praise God again.”, “Self, God loves me. He will save me.”, “Self, this is for my good that this is happening!”

- *A tour through 2 Corinthians: 1:8-11; 6:4-10; 8:2-4; 11:23-30; 12:7-10*

Peril:

I am sadly harassed by doubts, fears, unbelief, in a felt spiritual darkness. My heavenly pilot has disappeared, and I have lost my hold on the Rock of Ages; I sink in deep mire beneath storms and waves, in horror and distress unutterable. Help me, O Lord, to throw myself absolutely and wholly on Thee, for better, for worse, without comfort, and all but hopeless. Give me peace of soul, confidence, enlargement of mind, morning joy that comes after a night of heaviness. All-wise God, it is Your humbling in private that makes me enjoy You in public worship. Your providence orders every event, sweetens every fear, brings real good out of seeming evil, and teaches me to live by faith in You, not faith in self.

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** Throughout the month of May we are collecting donations for Vertical 196. They are in need of Men's Medium & Large boxer briefs, Women's Size 5-6 panties, individually wrapped snack cakes and cookies, single serve applesauce cups, fruit cups, pudding cups, Slim Jims, combination bike locks, razors, dog/cat food, Fuel only gift cards, Coffee, and Men's short/ankle socks. There is a tote in front of the back table to put your donations in.

★**NEW MEMBERS MEETING:** If you are interested in or have any questions about church membership, we will be having a New Members Meeting in TWO WEEKS on Sunday, May 29th, immediately following the worship service.

★**CHURCH DAY OF PRAYER:** Our monthly day of prayer as a church body will be on Wednesday, May 25th. We ask that you set aside specific time on this day to pray for the leaders and the ministries of our church body. If you have any prayer requests you would like for the Elders to be praying for on that day, please communicate those with Pastor Jeremy on that day.

★**FELLOWSHIP DINNER:** We are having a Fellowship Dinner NEXT Sunday, May 22nd, immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the back table, please sign-up to bring something to the dinner. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us.