



The Character of Job

Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?
James 2:22

The Man From Uz

SUNDAY: December 18

Key Passage(s): Job 1:1, 8

1. How does Job 1:1,8 help us to understand what is, an unnecessarily controversial word, perfect or perfection?

2. How does Hebrew parallel define perfect?

_Job 9:20 - _____

_Job 22:3 - _____

_Psalm 37:37 - _____

_Psalm 101:2 - _____

3. What experience of the gospel is the essence of being perfect from the following quote from inspiration?

“True sanctification comes through the working out of the principle of love. “God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.” 1 John 4:16. The life of him in whose heart Christ abides, will reveal practical godliness. The character will be purified, elevated, ennobled, and glorified. Pure doctrine will blend with works of righteousness; heavenly precepts will mingle with holy practices.” Acts of the Apostles, p. 565.1

4. What does Jesus recommend to all who strive to be in the kingdom of His glory? Matthew 5:48?

“Church-membership will not guarantee us Heaven. We must abide in Christ, and his love must abide in us. We must every day make advancement in the formation of symmetrical character. “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect.” As God is perfect in his sphere, so are we required to be perfect in ours.” Review and Herald, June 3, 1884, par. 13.

5. (Discussion) Why is there so much controversy with the word perfect or perfection? How do the apostate views of Augustine and Calvin fit into this misunderstanding of the word perfection?

NOTES:

Steps Bathed in Cream

MONDAY: December 19

Key Passage(s): Job 29:8-17

1. Why does Job say his steps were washed...with butter? What does it mean? Job 1:3

2. Was Job's wealth solely financial? Job 29:14

3. Why was Job spiritually wealthy? Job 29:12, 13, 15, 16, 17

4. (Discussion) Job demonstrated the blessings God gave him by helping others. What responsibility do we have with such great spiritual riches?

Notes:

Heart and Eyes

TUESDAY: December 20

Key Passage(s): Job 31:1-23

1. How does Job defend the conduct of his heart and eyes? Job 31:5, 6, 7, 9

2. What is the heart? Proverb 23:7

NOTE: In Strong's Exhaustive Concordance the heart is the seat of our thoughts and feelings, our inner man, thoughts and feelings combined make up our moral characters.

3. When Jesus came to earth what did Isaiah prophesy He would do? Isaiah 42:21. How did He magnify the law in His famous sermon on the mount? Matthew 5:21, 22, 27, 28.

4. (Discussion) What place does the heart play in the Great Controversy?

"From the opening of the great controversy it has been Satan's purpose to misrepresent God's character and to excite rebellion against His law, and this work appears to be crowned with success. The multitudes give ear to Satan's deceptions and set themselves against God. But amid the working of evil, God's purposes move steadily forward to their accomplishment; to all created intelligences He is making manifest His justice and benevolence. Through Satan's temptations the whole human race have become transgressors of God's law, but by the sacrifice of His Son a way is opened whereby they may return to God. Through the grace of Christ they may be enabled to render obedience to the Father's law. Thus in every age, from the midst of apostasy and rebellion, God gathers out a people that are true to Him – a people "in whose heart is His law." Isaiah 51:7." Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 338.2

NOTES:

A House on the Rock

WEDNESDAY: December 21

Key Passage(s): Job 31:24-34

1. Was Job proud of his wealth? Job 31:24, 25

2. Where will the sin of self-righteousness lead in the day of judgment? Job 31:27, 28

3. What allusion does Job make back to that robe of righteousness from Monday's lesson? Did Job ever try to cover his sins by the works of his hands? Job 31:33

4. What is Job suggesting about his lot in the light of judgment? Job 31:36, 37

5. (Discussion) What is the appropriate role between faith and works? Did Job exemplify a good example of the balance between faith and works?

NOTES:

The Manifold Wisdom of God

THURSDAY: December 22

Key Passage(s): Job

1. What does Jesus call His disciples to be? Matthew 5:16

2. What light are we called to give to the world? Revelation 14:6,7, 2Corinthians 4:6; Exodus 33:18, 19

3. What is synonymous with His character or glory that must be revealed to the world? Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14

4. Paul challenges the church of Corinth as He did Job to a standard higher than mere human thought. How were the Corinthians challenged and how does He challenge us today similarly? 1Corinthians 11:1

5. (Discussion) What are we called to follow, imitate, or reproduce?

“The very image of God is to be reproduced in humanity. The honor of God, the honor of Christ, is involved in the perfection of the character of His people.” *The Desire of Ages*, p. 671

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