

Ladies Bible Study
All Things for Good
Lesson 2: Chapter Two

Chapter 1 Review:

- The **best** things work for good to the godly
 1. God's Attributes
 2. God's promises
 3. God's mercies
 4. God's graces
 5. God's angels
 6. Communion of the saints
 7. Christ's intercession
 8. Our prayers

Chapter 2:

- The **worst** things work for good to the godly
 1. ***The evil of affliction works for good to the godly***
 - a. God has a special hand on our afflictions (Ruth 1:21)
 - i. The "Almighty" signifies three things here:
 1. He is the Almighty, therefore it is folly to resist Him
 2. He is the Almighty, therefore it is your duty to submit to Him
 3. He is the Almighty, therefore He is the only one who can sustain you
 - ii. "Whoever brings an affliction to us, it is God who sends it" (22).

iii. “Out of the most poisonous drugs God extracts our salvation” (22).

1. Acts 2:22-24, Gen. 3

iv. No vessel can be made of gold without fire; so it is impossible that we should be made vessels of honour, unless we are melted and refined in the furnace of affliction” (22).

b. ***How affliction work for good:***

i. Affliction is a *preacher*

1. Affliction shows us ourselves. “Our deepest needs drive us to our deepest beliefs” (Clowney).

ii. Affliction is a means of making the heart more *upright*

1. In prosperity the heart is prone to be divided (2 Chro. 12:1, 26:15-16; Hosea 4:7, 10:1, 13:5-6)

iii. Afflictions *conform us to Christ*

1. “God’s rod is a pencil to draw Christ’s image more lively upon us” (25).

iv. Afflictions are *destructive to sin*

1. “Afflictions carry away nothing but the dross of sin” (25).

v. Afflictions loosen the heart from the world

vi. Afflictions make way for *comfort*

1. “God’s rod has honey at the end of it” (26)

a. Hosea 6:1

vii. Afflictions *magnify us*

1. They are marks of being God’s children Hebrews 12:7

2. They make us renowned in the world. “Job the sufferer was more renowned than Alexander the conqueror” (27).

viii. Affliction is a means of making us *happy*

1. Afflictions make us happy by bringing us nearer to God (Ps. 119:71).

ix. Affliction *silences the wicked*

1. When the wicked see how you hold fast to God in affliction they are stunned.

x. Afflictions *prepare us for glory*

1. 2 Cor. 4:16-18

2. ***The evil of temptations is overruled for good***

- a. Satan is the great tempter; therefore, let us consider his method, power, and how he is overruled:

i. *Method:*

1. He is both a dragon and a serpent (29). He has five chief subtleties in temptation:
 - a. He observes the temperament and constitution
2. He considers the best time to tempt
 - a. When you have done your duty and laydown your guard
3. Temptation by proxy:
 - a. Job 2:9, Gen. 3, Matt. 16, Gal. 2
4. Temptation through otherwise good people
 - a. Matt. 16
5. Satan temps under pretense of religion
 - a. Matt. 4, John 18
6. Satan temps under pretense of helping you (NOT WATSON)

a. Gen. 3

ii. *Power:*

1. He can propose the object as he did with Achan
2. He can instill evil thoughts (John 13:2)
3. He can work on our inclination and draw us to sin

iii. *Overruled for good:*

1. The more Satan tempts the more we pray
 2. The more tempted the more we fight temptation.
 3. Temptation humbles
 - a. “Better is that temptation that humbles me, than that duty which makes me proud” (32).
 4. Temptation reveals what’s in the heart
 - a. While these temptations are not good, my resisting them evidences my loving Christ.
 5. Temptation enables you to comfort those in similar distress
 6. Temptations stir up God’s compassion for his children
 7. Temptations make us long for heaven
 8. Temptations cause us to engage the strength of Christ.
- b. What about when we give into temptation, how can that work for good?
- i. Humbles us (Matt. 26, John 21).
 - ii. Makes way for God’s grace.

