

Sermon Title: “The Words of Job are Ended”

Primary Text: Job 29-31

After spending nearly 24 chapters debating with Bildad, Zophar, and Eliphaz the reader finally hears Job’s definitive argument – “My suffering is great, yet I am innocent!” When examined as a whole, **Job’s** description in **Job 31** is exhaustive and could be disheartening, for if this is the standard by which we are to be called righteous, how can **anyone** stand before God?

Though Job’s conscience was clear, and he *genuinely* lived a righteous life, the focus of his argument was wrong... and eventually he will need to repent of it (**Job 42:1-7**). As we saw by **Elihu’s** anger in **Job 32:2**, however, Job’s entire argument is based on his clear conscience. The *right* response would be to defend **God’s sovereignty**. We saw in the text that whether in blessing or suffering, God is still in control and has **ordained** that we go through that moment.

One of the things that we can see in the text is that *all* suffering is not based on our actions, but that even when it is we can endure it because God is in control. More than that, we can see that **Jesus Christ**, who is the only one to have lived in **perfect righteousness**, suffered the ultimate suffering for *our* sake so that His righteousness is placed on us. Instead of our Sin, God sees Christ’s righteousness!

Beyond our main text, Pastor Zach referenced these passages:

1 Corinthians 1:28-31 Galatians 6:7 Romans 5:12; 8:18, 19-22 1 Peter 3:18 James 1:27

Questions to Consider this week:

- **Job 31** shows the reader that he truly *was* a righteous man. While the friends argued there must be some hidden sin, Job’s careful (though impassioned) argument showed that he *hadn’t* done anything to deserve it. How do you handle the times when you feel falsely accused?
- **Elihu** is angry with **Job**, not because he has hidden a sin but because he fails to **defend God** and respond in **Worship**. What can you do in your own life to remind you to **worship** when trials come? (Think back to the message on **Job 28** if you need some help)
- **Job 31** is often thought of as a definitive list of what righteous living looks like. Were there areas that made you uncomfortable or frustrated? How does the work of the **Cross** help you view yourself as **God** views you?
- This week, think of the areas where you have argued in defense of your own relative righteousness. Prayerfully consider how you can instead turn your thoughts and your arguments in defense of **God’s Sovereignty** over that moment.

Guided Prayer

*In Jesus name, and through His righteousness we can pray today, oh God. Help me remember suffering is a part of life, ordained by **You**. Give me peace knowing that even if my current suffering feels unrelated to my own faith or failures, You are still **God over all**. -AMEN*

Song for Personal Worship:

“The Lord Almighty Reigns (Psalm 93)” (Sovereign Grace)

<https://youtu.be/YfG0Efz49VU?si=9V8-200Q04Gv8E48>