

**Job's Summary**

**Defense**

**Chapter Twenty-Nine**

## **Job 29:1-6**

“And Job again took up his discourse, and said: ‘Oh, that I were as in the months of old, as in the days when God watched over me, when his lamp shone upon my head, and by his light I walked through darkness, as I was in my prime, when the friendship of God was upon my tent, when the Almighty was yet with me, when my children were all around me, when my steps were washed with butter, and the rock poured out for me streams of oil!’”

# The Friendship Of God

- Job remembers the days when God's blessing was upon him and his household and God was his friend.
- All the suffering Job has endured it is his perceived loss of friendship with God that hurts Job the most.
- He remembers the days when **God watched over me, when his lamp shone upon my head, and by his light I walked through darkness.**

- It is a great thing for a man to be near to God; it is a very choice privilege to be admitted into the inner circle of communion, and to become God's familiar friend. Great as the privilege is, so great is the loss of it. **No darkness is so dark** as that which falls on eyes accustomed to the light."-Spurgeon, Charles
- Job no longer believed that God was on his side but actually was against him at every turn. This created a deep sense of darkness around him.

- A person can get a feel for the mood of Job during this time from his description of the words he uses.
  - Job sensed that he had lost God's concern as in **the days when God watched over him.**
  - Job sensed that he had lost God's support as in **the days when his lamp shone upon my head.**
  - Job sensed that he had lost God's direction as in **the days when by his light I walked through darkness.**

➤ Job sensed that he had lost God's companionship as in the days **when the friendship of God was upon my tent.**

- Job is turning to that deep dark place that comes upon all of us when we go inward and focus totally upon ourselves and our misery.
- "Fifty-two times he has used 'I' and 'me.' We hear no confession, no admission of failure. We see nothing of a broken and contrite spirit in Job." -McGee, J. Vernon

- “It is all self. Self-occupation overshadows all. In ch. 29. it is the " I " of his prosperity ; in ch. 30. it is the " I " of his troubles ; in ch. 31. it is the " I " of his self-righteousness. **Self is justified and God is condemned.** How changed is this, when we come to " the end." There we have the large " I " indeed ; what a different "I" it then is. Then, it is the "I" of heavenly wisdom ; **the " I " which condemns himself and justifies God.**”-Bullinger, E.W.

## **Job 29:7-17**

“When I went out to the gate of the city, when I prepared my seat in the square, the young men saw me and withdrew, and the aged rose and stood; the princes refrained from talking and laid their hand on their mouth; the voice of the nobles was hushed, and their tongue stuck to the roof of their mouth. When the ear heard, it called me blessed, and when the eye saw, it approved,”

“because I delivered the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to help him. The blessing of him who was about to perish came upon me, and I caused the widow’s heart to sing for joy. I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; my justice was like a robe and a turban. I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame. I was a father to the needy, and I searched out the cause of him whom I did not know. I broke the fangs of the unrighteous and made him drop his prey from his teeth.”

## Job Remembers His Status

- Job remembered how great his status was in society and how people honored him wherever he went.
- Even **princes** and **nobles** were in awe of Job.
- Job had a seat in the city square which in ancient culture was a great honor.
- Job, at least from his opinion, was **blessed** and **approved** by all men.
- We have no idea what this city was, but any city that had a gate and a public square was a major urban center.”-Smick, Elmer

## Job Lists Six Things

- Job gives a list of six things that qualify him as a godly man who walked with God.
  1. Job **delivered the poor who cried for help.**
  2. Job **delivered the fatherless who had none to help him.**
  3. Job **caused the widow's heart to sing for joy.**
  4. Job **clothed himself in righteousness.**
  5. Job was a **father to the needy**
  6. Job defended **the cause of people he did not know.**

- In view of Job's list he could claim before the **eyes of man** to be righteous but God had and has a different idea about it, **He is going to provide the way of salvation Himself.**
- “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the **gift** of God, not a result of works, so that no one may **boast**.”-**Ephesians 2:8-9**
- If salvation was the accomplishment of man in any way man could boast about it. But under God's plan of salvation, God alone receives the glory, because God alone out of the richness of His love and mercy provided it.
- “I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for **My own sake**, and I will not remember your sins.”-**Isaiah 43:25**

- "The Jew was very apt to regard the law as a series of detached injunctions. To keep one of these injunctions was to gain credit; to break one was to incur debt. Therefore, a man could add up the ones he kept and subtract the ones he broke, and, as it were emerge with a credit or a debit balance."-Barclay, William
- This is the **wrong assumption** that is common to all work based religions. The idea that **acceptance** and **rejection** depend on the moral standing of the individual's good behavior.
- Job believed that he had built a good case for his righteousness because he had more credit of good deeds to his balance than bad.

# Paul Lists Six Things

- The Apostle Paul had a list of his own in Philippians 3:5-6:
  1. Paul was **circumcised on the eighth day**.
  2. Paul was of the **people of Israel**.
  3. Paul was of the **tribe of Benjamin**.
  4. Paul was a **Hebrew of Hebrews**.
  5. Paul was a **Pharisee, zealous, persecutor of the church**.
  6. Paul was **blameless in his righteousness under the Law**.

- Paul had a proper view of his accolades which should be the way each believer sees their life before Jesus.
- “But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith”-**Philippians 3:7-10**