

**September 27 – October 3**

## SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

“Stop regarding man, whose breath of life is in his nostrils; For why should he be esteemed?”

**Isaiah 2:22**

## BOOK READING

**Roberts, pp. 22-29**

## QUOTATION FOR MEDITATION

“All pride, all human haughtiness, all boasting in man’s achievement is a fearful forgetting of God Almighty and a dangerous provocation of his holy Name” (p. 23).

## M’CHEYNE BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

|               |           |       |        |             |
|---------------|-----------|-------|--------|-------------|
| <b>Sep 27</b> | 2 Sam 23  | Gal 3 | Eze 30 | Ps 78:38-72 |
| <b>Sep 28</b> | 2 Sam 24  | Gal 4 | Eze 31 | Ps 79       |
| <b>Sep 29</b> | 1 Ki 1    | Gal 5 | Eze 32 | Ps 80       |
| <b>Sep 30</b> | 1 Ki 2    | Gal 6 | Eze 33 | Ps 81, 82   |
| <b>Oct 1</b>  | 1 Ki 3    | Eph 1 | Eze 34 | Ps 83, 84   |
| <b>Oct 2</b>  | 1 Ki 4, 5 | Eph 2 | Eze 35 | Ps 85       |
| <b>Oct 3</b>  | 1 Ki 6    | Eph 3 | Eze 36 | Ps 86       |

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

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# COMFORT IN AFFLICTION

AL ELLISON

I must admit from the outset that when I was asked to write an article for the Man of the Word manual on Comfort in Affliction I asked myself; “what have I ever suffered that would be considered affliction? After all the worst things I have experienced physically has been kidney stones (twice), a severe case of the shingles, a broken thumb, and other “minor ailments” which are to be expected. Just as Job 5:6-7 says. Although affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground; Yet man is born unto trouble as the sparks fly upward”. I then looked up the definition of affliction in Webster’s New World Dictionary. Webster defines affliction as 1. Any afflicted condition; pain; suffering, 2. Anything causing pain or distress; calamity.

Yes, affliction comes to everyone, not always in the same way and every form. One man’s affliction may not be an affliction at all to another. Affliction may come at birth, in the early or middle years of life, or in old age, but be sure it will come to everyone.

Affliction that affects a mother or father, sibling or spouse may cause suffering and distress that affects those that care for them.

So if affliction is going to come we must, as believers, realize that God is sovereign overall and that affliction in our lives has some purpose that God is going to achieve through the affliction. An affliction in our health should not give us a “woe is me” mentality but a “why not me Lord.” God no doubt uses affliction of health to turn our attention to His Word, to greater obedience to the Word. The Psalmist in Psalm 119 recognized this in the following verses.

Psalm 119:50 “This is my comfort in my affliction, that your word has revived me”.

Psalm 119:67 “Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.”

Psalm 119:71 “It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.”

It is interesting to note that the Psalmist did not complain about the affliction he faced but viewed it as something that God used to turn his eyes away from himself and be revived, restored and taught from God's Word. Oh, may we learn through the affliction we may now be facing what an irreplaceable treasure we have in God's word. May God use the "tight places" in our lives to give us more of a yearning to love Him more, and a greater compassion for others that have their own "tight places." Let us use our "tight places" to encourage one another and "provoke one another to love and good works."

God gives grace through affliction so that we may glorify Him as we abide in Him through the trials of life. Often times it might be that God can use the comfort that we have in affliction so that we might be able to comfort others with the same comfort we have received from God. The Apostle Paul in II Corinthians 1:3-11. Verse 5 emphasizes that Christ's sufferings are ours in abundance and so also our comfort is abundant through Christ. Because He suffered we will never have to suffer for our sins.

What wonderful comfort is ours in the Apostle Paul's words in II Corinthians 4:17. "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh in us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

There is a little book that Pastor Minnick has recommended in the five-year reading plan that was a great help to my wife and I as she was given grace during her battle with cancer. We read most of The Crook in the Lot together in the four years and eight months while she went through 110 chemo treatments and several surgeries. Thomas Boston deals with "living with that thorn in your side" thoroughly and Biblically. I commend this most convicting and helpful book to anyone who is dealing with any affliction and you are struggling with understanding why God has brought this about in your life.

In conclusion, Annie Johnson Flint (1866-1932) the author of He Giveth He More Grace captures what God is doing in affliction.

He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater  
He sendeth more strength when the labors increase  
To added afflictions He addeth His Mercy  
To multiplied trials His multiplied peace  
His love has not limits  
His grace has no measure  
His power has no boundaries known unto men

For out of His infinite riches in Jesus  
He giveth and giveth and giveth again

When we have exhausted our store of endurance  
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done  
When we've reached the end of our hoarded resources  
Our Father's own giving has only begun  
His love has no limits  
His grace has no measure  
His power has no boundaries known unto men  
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus  
He giveth and giveth and giveth again