

THE CHURCH 135
KENOSIS 12

RECONCILIATION THROUGH

HEBREWS 2:10

10 ¶ For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

HEBREWS 2:11

11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them **brethren**,

[STOP]

117-1 SMYRNAEAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.4
Why does He stand by? The reason is in

Romans 8:17-18,

"And if children, then heirs, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together.

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

Unless we suffer with Him we cannot reign with Him. You have to suffer to reign. The reason for this is that character simply is never made without suffering. **Character is a VICTORY, not a gift.** A man without character can't reign because power apart from character is Satanic. **But power with character is fit to rule.** And since He wants us to share even His throne on the same basis that He overcame and is set down in His Father's throne, **then we have to overcome to sit with Him.** And the little temporary suffering we go through now is not worthy to be compared to the tremendous glory that will be revealed in us when He comes. **Oh, what treasures are laid up for those**

who are willing to enter into His kingdom through much tribulation.

117-2 SMYRNAEAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.4
"Think it not strange concerning the fiery trials that are to try you."

That is what Peter said. Is it strange that God wants us to develop a Christ-like character that comes through suffering? No sir. **And we all have trials. We are all tried and chastened as sons.** Not one but goes through that. The church that is not suffering, and is not being tried, hasn't got it--it isn't of God.

Heb. 12:6,

"For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons."

117-3 SMYRNAEAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.4
Now this special condition in Smyrna must be applied to every age. **There is no age free from it. There is no true believer free from it. This is of God. This is the will of God. It is needful.** We need the Lord to teach us the truth that we are to suffer **and be Christ-like in doing it.** "Love suffereth long and is kind."

Matthew 5:11-12,

"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

118-1 SMYRNAEAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.4
The cloudy skies and storms of life are no signs of God's disapproval. Neither are bright skies and still waters signs of His love and approval. **His approval of any of us is only IN THE BELOVED.** His love is elective which He had for us before the foundation of the world. **Does He love us? Ah yes. But how**

shall we know? We shall know because He SAID SO, and manifested that He did love us for He brought us to Himself and gave us of His Spirit, placing us as sons. **And how shall I prove my love to Him?** By believing what He said, and by conducting myself with joy amidst the trials that He in His wisdom allows to come to pass.

118-2 SMYRNAEAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.4
"I know thy poverty (but thou are rich)."

There it is again. **See Him walking up and down in the midst of His Church.** Like a father He is looking down upon His family. He is the Head of His household. He is the provider. He is the protector. **Yet He looks on at their poverty. Oh, how the untutored believer stumbles at this.** How can God bear to look upon His own in a time of need and not just stop it all--just give in and lavish everything material upon them?

118-3 SMYRNAEAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.4
Here is where you have to believe again in the love, and goodness and wisdom of God. This, too, is needful.....

II CORINTHIANS 13:4

4 For though he was crucified through ***WEAKNESS**, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.

WEAKNESS: GREEK LEXICON -- STRONG'S NUMBER 769

astheneia {as-then'-i-ah}

infirmity, disease, sickness, want of strength,

II CORINTHIANS 10:9

9 That I may not seem as if I would terrify you by letters.

II CORINTHIANS 10:10

10 For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.

II CORINTHIANS 12:5

5 Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities.

II CORINTHIANS 12:9

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

II CORINTHIANS 12:10

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

PERFECT.STRENGTH.BY.PERFECT.WEAKNESS_ JEFF.IN V-8 N-1
SUNDAY_ 61-1119

42 **We try to make our weaknesses excuses.** We want to tell how big we are, how great we are. I think that's one of the things that I--God gave me the text for, was to get that out of our mind. See?

There's little things that we do. **And that's what we come to church for, is to find out where our faults is, and the things that we might better ourselves by.** If we come to church for any other--any other objective than this, I'm afraid we won't get too much out of coming to church. **We must come to find our weaknesses, find our bad places and our--how--see how little we are,** and put our trust in Somebody that's strong.....

PERFECT.STRENGTH.BY.PERFECT.WEAKNESS_ JEFF.IN V-8 N-1
SUNDAY_ 61-1119

44 There's so many of us likes to testify or likes to think **that we're insufficient;** and therefore, we make that an excuse, "I have no education; I have no ability; I'm unable to do this." And if you keep that up and do that in that way, keep going like that, **then you can't 'mount to anything.** But the very thing that we make excuses by our weaknesses, **God uses that very thing to tackle the job with.** See? He waits for us to get to that condition so that He can use us. We--we take the excuses and

say, "Well, I--I--I--I'm can't do this, I'm insufficient. I--I can't do it." **And God takes that very thing to do the job with.** That's true.

That's the reason why that He--He chooses us, because we're in that condition. Now, that sounds strange, but just a few minutes we'll get to the reason of it, if God being willing. We--we find out, just as we've been reading, that weaknesses and rejections... And we find out that those people who are the weakest and the rejected by the outside world, **is God's heroes, that conqueror up in the front line, takes those who are--are--feel themselves unworthy.**

PERFECT.STRENGTH.BY.PERFECT.WEAKNESS_ JEFF.IN V-8 N-1
SUNDAY_ 61-1119

52 **Notice that it takes the--the weakest and the rejected, and practically every hero God ever had on the front line was that type of person.** A person that was rejected, a person that thought he was insufficient, a person that had no ability at all, **then that person's just in good shape so God can start using them.** That's right. When they feel like that they can't, they haven't got nothing, that's when God can take ahold of them and do something with them. See? When... **But when we are thinking that we're able to do it, then God can't use us because we're wanting to do it ourselves.**

PERFECT.STRENGTH.BY.PERFECT.WEAKNESS_ JEFF.IN V-8 N-1
SUNDAY_ 61-1119

56.....There's one thing that we've got to master if we expect to fulfill God's desire in our life; that is, **we have to master the thought of human ability.** If we ever get to a spot where we think that we can do it with our own intelligence and our own abilities, **we've got to master that in such a way that we can get rid of the thing and lay it aside so that God can use us.** That's right.