**I**ntroduction

Billy Gotcher, PhD

t

REDEEMING OUR TIME OF AFFLICTION

**Session X**

t

**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 have been afflicted**, That I may learn Your statutes.”

 **2 Corinthians 12:10**“Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

**2 Corinthians 12:8**“Concerning this thing **I pleaded with the Lord** three times that **it might depart from me**.”

**Psalm 119:65-72**“**You have dealt well with Your servant**, O Lord**, according to Your word**. 66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge, For I believe Your commandments. 67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word. 68 You are good, and do good; Teach me Your statutes. 69 The proud have forged a lie against me, But I will keep Your precepts with my whole heart. 70 Their heart is as fat as grease, But I delight in Your law. 71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes. 72 The law of Your mouth is better to me Than thousands of coins of gold and silver.”

1. **We must preach truth to ourselves (vv. 65-66).**

**Hosea 4:1***“Hear the word of the LORD, You children of Israel, For the LORD brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: “There is no truth or mercy Or* ***knowledge of God*** *in the land.”*

**Hosea 4:6***“My people are destroyed for* ***lack of knowledge****. Because you have* ***rejected knowledge****, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.”*

1. **We must turn from our useless ways (v. 67).**

**Psalm 119:67**“Before **I was afflicted** I went astray, **But now** I keep Your word.”

Notice what changed in David’s life through affliction.

1. **We must rejoice and rest in God’s goodness (v. 68).**

**Psalm 119:68***“You are good, and do good; Teach me Your statutes.”*

**Faith** is anchored in this reality—**God is good** **and causing good**!

1. **We must stop looking to our culture for approval (v. 69-70).**

**Psalm 119:69-70***“****The proud*** *have* ***forged a lie against me****, But I will keep Your precepts with my whole heart. 70 Their heart is as fat as grease, But I delight in Your law.”*

**Adams** – “Proud persons have **patched together a lie** against me.”

**Calvin** – “The proud have **imagined a lie** against me.”

How are we to respond to the name calling and shaming—the relentless pressure of our culture to abandon our convictions—to see them as unloving and/or intolerant?

**Psalm 119:69b***“****…****But I will keep Your precepts* ***with my whole heart****.”*

1. **The Finish Line: Embracing our Afflictions as a Good Gift from God (vv. 71-72).**

**Psalm 119:71-72***“****It is good for me that I have been afflicted****, That I may learn Your statutes. 72 The law of Your mouth is better to me Than thousands of coins of gold and silver.”*

May the Lord have free course in our hearts to **produce these convictions:**

**2 Corinthians 10:9-10***“And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore* ***most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities****, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore* ***I take pleasure in infirmities****, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For* ***when I am weak, then I am strong****.”*