

# **S.O.H.L.**

## **WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS**

*Pronounced "Soul"*

**August 29, 2016**

### **Poison in My Ears**

**JOB 2:11 KJV – (11)** Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came everyone from his own place; Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite: for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him.

Regrettably, Job's friends are not able to endure the mystery of his suffering, and jump to conclusions about its source. The first of the three, Eliphaz, acknowledges that Job has been a source of strength to others (**Job 4:3-4**). But then he turns and puts the blame for Job's suffering squarely on Job himself. "Think now," he says, "who that was innocent ever perished? Or where were the upright cut off? As I have seen, those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same" (**Job 4:7-8**). Job's second friend, Bildad, says much the same. "See, God will not reject a blameless person nor take the hand of evildoers" (**Job 8:20**). The third friend, Zophar, repeats the refrain. "If iniquity is in your hand, put it far away, do not let wickedness reside in your tents. Surely then you will lift up your face without blemish; you will be secure, and will not fear. Your life will be brighter than the noonday" (**Job 11:14-15, 17**).

The book of Job demands that we see ourselves in the faces of Job's friends. We too — presumably — know right from wrong, and have some sense of God's ways. But we do not know *all* of God's ways as they apply in all times and places. "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it" (**Psalms 139:6**). God's ways are often a mystery beyond our understanding. Is it possible that we also are guilty of ignorant judgments against our friends, family, co-workers, etc.? Think before speaking. Provide comfort by just simply being a friend.

#### **SCRIPTURE READING**

**JOB 20:15-19**

#### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

(After reading the scripture reading above this very line), why is Zophar so eager to blame Job? Are we sometimes too eager to follow in Zophar's footsteps when our friends face failures in life?