

"God maketh my heart soft"

Job 23 contains the words of Job in the form of personal musings. These inward thoughts portray the way a person is, when they believe God and His declarations regarding men. ie accountability to a future judgement and a generalised condemnation by which mankind has a link both by a past connection (Adam and Eve) and individual failings. This awareness can cause things to happen both good and bad.

A hardening of life direction into the paths of sin governed by the sentiment ... *let us eat drink and be merry for tomorrow we die*. This indicates the doer thereof has no hope no inclination to amend or correct no /little attempt to do that which is pleasing unto God. These positions can be due to incomplete knowledge/ partial awareness or incorrect faith.

Incomplete knowledge is an understanding which takes in something like God is love and assumes that the assertion means all will be forgiven. While the statement is true: God is love - it doesn't consider that His love is conditional. *My word shall not return unto me void but shall accomplish that which I please*.

On salvation God speaks in Ezekiel 18:32: *For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dies, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye*.

However, it also requires the agency/ work of Jesus.

Regarding partial awareness this is illustrated in some after being told all they need to read or know of God's word is the New Testament! Even just one single verse John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever*

believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Those who accept this are deceived. It is clearly a wrong message as Jesus himself taught from what is now called the Old Testament and God asserts: *all scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine for reproof for correction for instruction for righteousness that the man of God may be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works.* - 2 Timothy 3 v18.
(*all scripture hath concluded all under sin that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to them who believe* Galatians 3:22)

Job in his musings and deliberations acknowledges accountability his experiences with their consequent reactions to them reveals his belief in a Redeemer (the Messiah or anointed one) who can save, nevertheless, he accepts - *the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.* (Job 1:21)

These things being in him illustrate a soft heart.

He doesn't turn a cold shoulder or turn his back on God, neither does he persist in thinking nothing can save him to change his end fate - clearly spelled by the apt phrase *Dying thou shalt die* which is the definition of mortality. He has hope in God's Promises, not the all-too-common condition in humanity who by their sinful deeds unrepented of, leave them with no hope.

A soft heart has another quality. It predisposes a person to be more merciful and helpful, aware of the frailties and failings of mankind and prompts a desire to help and strengthen them in good and Godly paths. This attitude is summed up in the word "compassion". A quality found very much in the gospel record of Jesus' interactions. It is the reason he heals, guides, and instructs those around him! Clearly qualities we ALL should have and use in our own lives!!