

BITTERNESS: A SIN AGAINST SELF, GROUP AND GOD

SERMON BY ELDER G.O.C. UDU ON SUNDAY, 24TH MAY, 2020

TEXTS: Ps. 64:2-7 - *God will shoot them with His arrows.*

Rm. 3:14 - Their mouths are *full of cursing.*

Acts 8:23 - Bitter people are *captive to sin.*

INTRODUCTION

Bitterness is a noun that describes the *mood of a person* with *filthy heart*. It describes the *negative attitude of someone* who is *angry, disappointed* with self, neighbour, God or who feels unfairly treated. *Synonyms of bitterness* are animosity, hatred, malice, quarrelsome, bad blood, rancor, ill will, hostility, enmity, irritability, acrimony, etc. All of them are very bad or negative attitudes of man described as sin in many portions of the Bible.

EXAMPLES OF BITTERNESS

a. Examples from the Bible

- **Cain** killed Abel (**Gen. 4:1-16**).
- **Absalom** revolted against his father, David, and was killed. He was the 3rd son and the most handsome man in Israel (**2 Sam. 15**).
- **Ahithophel** who was the best advisor to David turned against David and lost out (**2 Sam 15:31**).
- **Saul** chased David with all his strength to kill him because he killed Goliath and saved Israel from their enemies.

b. Earthly examples

- **A child bitter with parents** for whatever reason – education, upkeep, failure in exam, etc.
- **A person bitter with self** for failed expectations.
- **Parents bitter with children** for not measuring up to expectations.
- **Church members' bitterness** with preacher, church leaders and worshippers.
- **Preacher and or church leaders' bitterness** with members may lead them to hell.
- **Citizens** against their leaders
- In football, **Sani Kaita** during the **2010 FIFA World Cup match in South Africa** kicked a Greek outside the field of play because of bitterness. He was given a **straight Red card** within the first 15 minutes of the match and Nigeria lost a match that they were full of hopes to win. That means that *one man's bitterness can reduce a group's or organization's chances of growth.*

EFFECTS AND ATTRIBUTES OF BITTERNESS

- Reduces self **potentials** and group potentials too.
- Makes **cooperation** with others difficult.
- **Complains** about everything and everybody.
- **Curses** self and neighbours.
- **Never happy** with self and neighbours.
- Sees and hears **only negative things** and people.

REWARD OF BITTERNESS

Psalms 64:7 *God will shoot bitter people* with **His arrow** and **they will be down and out** of contest for any good thing including salvation.

CONCLUSION

Rev. 2:5 Remember from where you have fallen and repent before it becomes too late. **Leave bitterness and allow growth** to take place both in your lives and in those of others.

Thank you and **BE BLESSED** in Jesus name, Amen