

SUFFERING

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Sufferings of This Present World – Suffering FOR Christ – Suffering WITH Christ

Sufferings of This Present World:

For the Christian all suffering is considered incomparable to the glory that we shall know one day. It is to this end we must reckon that understanding of our glorified body which shall never feel pain of suffering anymore.

Romans 8:18, “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.”

The general suffering anyone can enjoy does little good for the lost aside from causing them to fear God and possibly turn from their evil and wicked ways: a preparation towards receiving the gospel with a furrowed heart. However, for the Christian there are sometimes some suffering to do this very same thing. It is a fraudulent heart in every believer that would do wrong to the brethren in retaliation which is a fault and a schism in the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:7, “Now therefore there is utterly **a fault among you**, because ye go to law one with another. **Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?”**

There is a common human condition of temptation however the Christian has the advantage because our God is faithful and will make a way of escape. Are you looking for that way of escape from temptation? If you are not a Christian your plight in temptation is to suffer it with no help unless you come to Christ for salvation first because HE is the way of escape through salvation to the lost; but for the saved HE is the way of escape through the Blood of the cross for cleansing and fellowship.

1 Corinthians 10:13, “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is **common to man**: but God is faithful, **who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able**; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, **that ye may be able to bear it.**”

Another general suffering is to suffer for your own faults, which no one should do, but if that happens you know you are at fault and you should take it patiently, because you deserve it. However when you are NOT at fault and you are doing right and suffer, human nature is to counteract this and say something like, “but it was not my fault!” The Christian has the

advantage to this because we can take it patiently knowing that Christ suffered for us when He did not deserve that suffering but took it patiently.

1 Peter 2:20, “For **what glory is it**, if, when ye be buffeted **for your faults, ye shall take it patiently?** but **if, when ye do well**, and **suffer for it, ye take it patiently**, this is acceptable with God.”

Suffering WITH Christ:

This suffering is the suffering that you may not recognize because it is the suffering of Christ that the body of Christ shares in but not experiential. That is, we have not experience the death of crucifixion, but we are still crucified WITH Christ or rather we are supposed to be.

Romans 8:17, “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.”

When the body of Christ suffers the body suffers, this is a combination of suffering with Christ and for Christ as it is also a general suffering. Placing this suffering in this category is important because the Body of Christ suffering happened on the Cross, yet suffering in this present also counts as to the body of Christ suffering in this present time.

1 Corinthians 12:26, “And whether **one member suffer, all the members suffer with it**; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.”

The body of Christ suffers to help others in the body of Christ for comfort so that the body of Christ helps itself to endure that same suffering for consolation and for the lost for salvation.

2 Corinthians 1:3-6, “Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all **our tribulation**, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. For **as the sufferings of Christ abound in us**, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. And whether **we be afflicted**, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual **in the enduring of the same sufferings** which **we also suffer**: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation.”

The suffering loss of anything or everything is part of the fellowship we enjoy. But not everyone goes through the same exact form of suffering; albeit all Christians suffer the loss of all things for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. What is important is that by these things pertaining to suffering we may be found IN HIM through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God BY FAITH and not by the works of the LAW after salvation. That is, our Christian life is not lived by sight, but by faith, because as you have received the Lord

Jesus Christ; so walk in Him: it is by FAITH ALONE you received Him, so it is by FAITH ALONE that you are to walk IN HIM. The suffering should teach a Christian this very truth.

Philippians 3:7-12, "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and **I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things,** and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And **be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:** That I may know Him, and the **power of His resurrection,** and **the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death;** If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus."

For the Christian our suffering is working in us the humility to know who and what we are IN CHRIST, to bring us to the point of understanding with the mind of Christ, to accomplish a sinless life.

1 Peter 4:1, "Forasmuch then **as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh,** arm yourselves **likewise with the same mind:** for **he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;**"

The understanding also brings us to the full knowledge of how we are partakers of Christ's sufferings; whereby we gain the glory that Christ has in our new bodies.

1 Peter 4:13, "But rejoice, inasmuch as **ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings;** that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."

It is therefore of the most importance that we accomplish that suffering in life to be in fact suffering WITH Christ, so as to make you perfect as above to live a sinless life as much as possible, make you perfect as much as possible, to be established in the truth of the words of God and not wavering especially on doctrine, to be strengthened in the faith and armed with the whole armour of God and lastly to be settled in the knowledge and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 5:10, "But the God of all grace, **who hath called** us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, **after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.**"

Suffering **FOR** Christ:

The aspect of suffering WITH Christ and suffering FOR Christ are almost the same thing. And even the general suffering of the Christian as well, however there IS a difference in these things. Suffering WITH Christ is expressly a non-experienced suffering. It is in the identification of being IN CHRIST as the BODY of Christ. However reckoning all suffering to this end, helps get

through that suffering in this present time. Suffering FOR Christ usually comes in the form of persecution.

Acts 9:16, “For I will shew him how great things **he must suffer for my name's sake.**”

It is given that we that believe on the Lord Jesus Christ to suffer for his sake. We suffer in the behalf of Christ; if you suffer for his sake are you suffering WITH him? Yes, of sorts; but in that we are suffering in the behalf of Christ, the reverse is actually true. Us suffering FOR Christ, causes Jesus Christ body to suffer in this present time: that is, Christ is IN YOU, and you are IN HIM. Jesus Christ suffers being IN YOU when you are persecuted; and in like manor YOU are in the state of suffering even though you are not consciously aware of it being IN HIM being crucified WITH HIM.

Philippians 1:29, “For **unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;**”

The fact still remains that the suffering we experience in this life that is a product of being beaten for speaking up for Christ as in Paul’s case, he took that AS the afflictions of Christ in Paul’s flesh for Christ’s body’s sake: which is the church.

Colossians 1:24, “Who now rejoice in **my sufferings for you**, and fill up that which is behind of the **afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:**”

The purpose of suffering is in part to establish other Christians, to comfort them because we are all appointed to the suffering wherewith we suffer for a greater purpose and because of Romans 8:28 that we may know to some extent that we are suffering in the present time, for a future greater reason that we might help our brethren that are in like distress of their sufferings.

1 Thessalonians 3:2-5, “And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our **fellowlabourer** in the gospel of Christ, **to establish you**, and **to comfort you** concerning your faith: That no man should be moved by **these afflictions**: for yourselves know that **we are appointed thereunto**. For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that **we should suffer tribulation**; even as it came to pass, and ye know. **For this cause**, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.”

One of the most important facts of our suffering for Christ is that we may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, because when He shall come to be glorified in the saints and to be admired in all them that believe; we will be partakers of that glory being the body of Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:3-10, “We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that **your faith groweth exceedingly**, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth; So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God **for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure**: Which is a

manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, **that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer**: Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; And **to you who are troubled rest with us**, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; **When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe** (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.”

1 Timothy 4:10, “For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.”

2 Timothy 1:12, “For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”

2 Timothy 2:7-13, “Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things. Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel: Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.”

2 Timothy 3:12, “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

1 Peter 3:8-17, “Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.”

1 Peter 4:15-19, "But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator."

1 Peter 5:10, "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you."

The Suffering of Christ:

Luke 24:26, "Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?"

Luke 24:46, "And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:"

Acts 26:23, "That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles."

2 Timothy 2:7-13, "Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things. Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel: Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself."

1 Peter 3:18-20, "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water."

Hebrews 2:9-10, "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. 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 2:18, “For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.”

Hebrews 5:8, “Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;”

1 Peter 4:1, “Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;”

1 Peter 5:1, “The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:”