

The Purpose of Christ's Suffering

1 Peter 2:19-25

"What does Christ's suffering mean for our suffering? a. We know that Christ has actually entered into the experience of suffering. He has been there! b. We know that Christ can sympathize and empathize with our suffering. He knows what we are experiencing, and He knows it by experience! c. We know that, because Christ loves us as His brothers and sisters for whom He has sacrificed His life, He cares for us even while we are in the midst of suffering. The depth of His care is measured by the depth of His love. d. Because Christ knows what suffering is, empathizes with us in it, and loves and cares for us in the midst of it, we can without reservation trust Him to do what is best for His glory and our highest interests. In the depths of suffering, when we need all of our strength just to bear it, and have no strength to reach out in active faith or love to God, we can leave it all in His strong hands and rest in His faithfulness and His love, knowing that He will hold us, never let us go, and bring us safely through. And we can do this in complete confidence, knowing that He has bound Himself to the fulfillment of His great and precious promises, none of which has ever failed or ever will!" Robert Dunzweiler

- I. We know from Scripture that suffering is a part of the Christian life and is meant to refine our faith. According to James, Peter, Paul and the writer of Hebrews, suffering teaches us perseverance, character and hope, matures us, trains us, is meant to produce a harvest of righteousness through us and tests and refines our faith. It breaks us of self-reliance, humbles us, and changes us for God's glory. His purpose in allowing suffering in our lives is to fundamentally change our hearts, our outlook on life and our character for the purpose of conforming us more and more into the likeness of His precious Son, Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:19-21

1 Cor. 16:13

Rom. 8:29

II Cor. 3:18

ὑπομένω hypoménō to remain i.e. abide, not recede or flee, to persevere: under misfortunes and trials to hold fast to one's faith in Christ, to endure, bear bravely and calmly: ill treatments. Strong's

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

- II. Spiritual growth through suffering is an important part of the sanctification process that Jesus set in motion on the cross. God the Son willingly entrusted himself to God the Father to leave us an example of what it means to continually give ourselves over to God's care in the midst of whatever trials we might be going through. Following in His steps, means that we entrust ourselves to him alone as the author and perfecter of our faith knowing that He will never leave nor forsake us (Duet. 31:6).

1 Peter 2:22-23

Isa. 53:8-10

1 Peter 4:19 *So then those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.*

- III. Jesus suffering involved physical, emotional, and spiritual torment so that sinners could find their way back to the shepherd and overseer of their souls. He was willing to pay any price for our souls, and he did. Being sinless and never knowing sin, He felt every disgusting sin that man is capable of committing. He was our sin bearing substitute to heal us from our alienation from God because of sin. Our responsibility then, is to die to sin and live for righteousness so that we might glorify our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:24-25

2 Chron. 7:13-14

Psalm 107:17-19

Psalm 119:71

Psalm 119:67

Heb. 12:7

2 Chron. 12:7

2 Cor. 12:9

Heb. 4:16

Phil. 1:12-13

2 Cor. 1:3-4

1 Peter 1:7

1 Peter 1:24

Isaiah 53:6 *We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

2 Peter 1:1 *"Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:"*