

## **Ouch, That Hurts!**

God doesn't want us to suffer, but it is inevitable because this isn't heaven!

- The fallen nature of man
- The cursed earth because of that fall
- Satan and his foul companions

Through it all, God loves us with a love we barely understand. But He makes no excuse for sin and makes the standard clear.

### **Ezekiel 18:20**

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Many complain that God is unfair, that this earth is a mess because of Him, that suffering is His mistake...but I want us to take another look at "suffering". I don't mean suffering because of the common problems of the day...most of which we bring on ourselves with poor decisions in the realm of health, finances, relationships etc.

What I'm talking about is an "attitude" about suffering...what's yours? Where does "suffering" come into your understanding of the truths of God? Are you angry, confused, or just plain old neutral?

### **Romans 14:8**

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In following a life in Christ, there is much suffering because we are trying to live a fully functional life with broken parts and pieces. We cannot do it without pain. The more we give to God, the more He can fix. The suffering will never go away completely because the journey requires a total makeover. But what an awesome difference when we begin to walk with some of the broken parts fixed! How can we do that? God gives us ample guidance in the Scriptures...

### **Acts 5:41**

### **Hebrews 11:25**

### **1 Peter 5:10**

### **1 Peter 2:20**

### **That was the Apostles suffering...what kinds of things might YOU suffer?**

- **Persecution** (Mt 5:11...you are blessed when reviled, persecuted, falsely accused on account of Jesus)
- **Hatred** (Mt 10:22...you will be hated on account of the name of Jesus but endure to the end and you will be saved)
- **Loss of your dreams** (Mt 10:39...if you lose your life for His sake, you will find it)
- **Renounce worldly treasures** (Mt 19:29...if you give all relationships and “your stuff” up for the sake of Jesus, you shall receive many times as much, and shall inherit eternal life.”

Suffering is a strange thing...we all hate it. But it always has its good result...but only in Christ, otherwise we would become depressed, sullen, bitter, angry, etc.

### **WHY ALL THIS SUFFERING?** Listen to this...

**1 Peter 3:18** “For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.”

Jesus is God’s “word picture” to us. By us entering into the sufferings of Christ...we, too, must “go to the cross,” meaning we have to put the flesh to death so we can be made alive in the Spirit!

### **You will be “fixed”...IF you endure the sufferings of Christ and will receive a much better result...**

- Entrance into a covenant with the FAMILY OF GOD (Matthew 12:50)
- God will BEAR YOUR BURDENS (Psalm 68:19)
- Your PROVISIONS WILL BE BLESSED (Exodus 23:25)
- WEAKNESS AND WEARINESS will be REMOVED (Exodus 23:25)
- You will have an EVERLASTING NAME (Isaiah 56:5)
- You will receive a NEW HEART to KNOW GOD (Jeremiah 24:7)
- You will receive a NEW SPIRIT that will BE ABLE TO OBEY GOD (Ezekiel 11:19-20)
- You will ENTER INTO HIS REST (Matthew 11:28)
- The HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU (Luke 11:13)
- You will NEVER PERISH but have ETERNAL LIFE (John 10:28)
- You will receive the CROWN OF LIFE in heaven (Revelation 2:10)