

Sermon 2-22-09

A summary Reasons for Suffering

First, We suffer for our own sake:

...that we might learn who God is. (Ps. 46:1-10; Dn 4:24-37; Job)

...that we might learn to trust God (2 Cor. 1:8-9)

...that we might learn to obey God (Ps 119:67, 71)

...that we might learn that discipline is proof of the Father's love and of the validity of our sonship. (Heb 12:5-11)

...is a condition of discipleship (Acts 14:22; Lk 14:26-33)

...it is required of soldiers (2 Tim 2:3-4)

...that we may bear fruit. (Jn 15:2)

... that we might achieve for us an eternal glory that far outweighs all our troubles and sufferings. (2 Cor 4:16-18)

...that we may be shaped to the image of Christ (Rm 8:29)

...to qualify us to be fellow-heirs with Christ (Rm 8:17)

...to qualify us for the kingdom of God (2 Thes. 1:4-5)

...to qualify us to reign with Christ (2 Tm 2:12)

...that our faith may be strengthened (Jas 1:3; 2 Thes 1:4-5; Acts 14:22)

...that our faith may be tested and refined (Is 43:2; Dn 11:35; Mal 3:2; 1 Cor 3:13; 1 Pt 1:7)

...that we may reach spiritual maturity (Jas 1:4)

...that power may come to its full strength in weakness (2 Cor. 12:9)

...to produce in us endurance, character, hope, joy and generosity (Rm 5:3-4; 2 Cor. 8:2)

Second, We suffer for the sake of God's people

...that they may obtain salvation

...to give them courage (Phil 1:14)

...that because of death working in us, life may work in them (2 Cor. 4:12; Gal 4:13; 1 Jn 3:16)

...that grace may extend to more (2 Cor 4:15)

...that our generosity may bless others (2 Cor 8:2)

Third, we suffer for the world's sake:

...that it may be shown what love and obedience mean (Job; Jn 14:31; Mt 27:40-43)

...that the life of Jesus may be visible in ordinary human flesh (2 Cor. 4:10)

Fourth, we suffer for Christ sake;

...that we may be identified with Him in His crucifixion (Gal 2:20)

...suffering is the result of faith (Ps 44:22; Acts 9:16 and 14:22; 2 Tim 3:12; Jn 15:18-21; 1 Thes 1:6 & 3:4.

...that we may share His suffering (1 Pt 4:12-13; Phil 1:29, 2:17, 3:8-10; Col 1:24; 2 Tim 1:8; Heb 13:13)