

# PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORY: CHRIST SUFFERED TO BRING US TO GOD

Houses of Light Church • August 21, 2022 • Pastor Netz Gómez

1 Pet. 3:16-17

***"having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil."***

## I. IS IT GOD'S WILL THAT HIS CHILDREN SUFFER?

- A. This is a question that many people who love God have asked themselves and the second question that is very logical is why would God allow such a thing? Suffering is something that hurts and that we try to avoid as much as possible.
- B. When Peter says in **v.17 "Because..."** he is showing that this is one reason why we should keep a clear conscience in dealing with our fellow man by acting humbly and in the fear of God, even when they speak against us. . The other option is to get angry or bitter, fearing men instead of fearing God, losing our good conscience before those who do not know God. We must live in humility and respect because before God it is better for us to suffer for doing good than to suffer for doing evil.
- C. ***" if that should be God's will."*** This verse answers the question by clearly stating that it is possible for God's will to allow us to suffer at the hands of unjust people even though we are doing good. Here is another statement of this reality in the same letter:

**1 Pet. 4:19 "Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good."**

- D. The specific suffering that Peter is talking about is when someone speaks ill of us which is a sin. Here the Bible is telling us that in some cases it may be God's will that we suffer for the sins of others but it is always for a good purpose. One of the most important examples of this truth is the suffering of Jesus himself.

**Acts 4:27-28 "for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place."**

- E. God is able to use the stubbornness and sin of men like Herod, Pilate, the Gentiles and the people of Israel to allow His Son to be crucified for the purpose of carrying out the work of redemption so that we can be saved. God does not sin in any of this because He is holy and in Him there is no unrighteousness (Ps. 92:14-15).

## II. WHAT IS GOD'S PURPOSE IN ALLOWING CHRISTIANS TO SUFFER AT THE HANDS OF UNJUST PEOPLE?

- 1. **TO BRING CONVICTION TO SINNERS:** When you remain humble and kind instead of talking back, what can happen is that the very ones who speak ill of

you will be embarrassed for their misconduct, and this conviction can lead them to stop speaking ill of you and glorify God when they do. he visits them.

**1 Pet. 2:12** *"Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation."*

2. **TO PURIFY OUR FAITH AND BE FOUND IN PRAISE, GLORY AND HONOR WHEN CHRIST COMES.** Here is another reason why God brings suffering into our lives:

**1 Pet. 1:6-7** *"In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."*

- In general, human beings consider our temporary conditions such as comfort, social status, pleasures, looks, etc. as the most important thing in our lives but God is very clear about the eternal perspective of our lives and wants our faith to be in the best place when He returns, so he uses afflictions to promote eternal benefit.

**2 Cor. 4:17-18** *"For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."*

- The genuineness of our faith is one of the most important aspects of our life and that is why God allows tests to make sure that the most important thing is taken care of. These tests are a refinement of the genuineness of our faith and when the fires burn all the dross of self-sufficiency they refine us and thus we will be before God receiving praise, honor and glory and there will be no remorse for having suffered for Him and with the.

3. **FOR GOD TO BE GLORIFIED IN A WAY THAT ONLY THESE SITUATIONS CAN GLORIFY HIM:**

- **1 Pet. 4:16** *"Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name."* In this verse is the greatest reason of all why God allows us to suffer. God is glorified through the suffering of His people by keeping our hope in Him that cannot be shown otherwise.

### III. THE CENTRALITY OF CHRIST'S SUFFERING

**1 Pet. 3:18** *"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God..."*

- A. *"Christ suffered"* The suffering of Christ is central. We need to pause sometimes and let something we are so familiar with give us a sense of seriousness about how paramount it is. Let's see how Peter emphasizes it:

**1 Pet. 1:11** *"inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories."*

**1 Pet. 2:21** *"For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps."*

**1 Pet. 4:1** *"Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking..."*

**1 Pet. 4:13a** *"But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed."*

**1 Pet. 5:1a** *"So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ..."*

- The fact that **"Christ suffered"** is not only central to this letter of Peter but to the universe itself. Constantly remind yourself: 'My God sent his Son to suffer and He suffered.' We cannot think too long or too deeply about the sufferings of Christ. And he did it once, not many times, which speaks to how decisive and complete this suffering was.

**Heb. 7:27** *"He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself."*

- **Christ suffered once and for all because His suffering did the work that had to be done.** What a glorious truth that it is not a sacrifice that has to be repeated! Christ died suffered once and for all and we get the benefit of believing and trusting in His work.
- B. ***"the righteous for the unrighteous"*** that is, He did it for us. He is perfectly just and we are thoroughly unjust; therefore we would never have the capacity to be brought to God; or come before Him, except as judge, unless someone somehow dealt with our sins but without having sins and that is the mystery of the gospel.
- C. The sweetest news in the whole gospel is that unless one who was righteous and sinless loved us and stepped forward to take our place ***"the righteous for the unrighteous"*** we would have no salvation.
- D. **What are some benefits that come from the sufferings of Christ?**
  1. To be forgiven of your sins: Your forgiveness was purchased.
  2. To be justified: Which is to be made upright and just before God.
  3. To be free from the wrath of God: There will not be holy wrath against us.
  4. Being free from hell: From eternal damnation and separated from God.
  5. Being free from guilt: Enjoying free access to God.
  6. And all this be forever: This is what we call eternal life.

#### **IV. WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN BORN AGAIN?**

**1 Pet. 3:18** *"Christ suffered... that he might bring us to God..."*

- A. And the last thing to look at is the purpose ***"to bring us to God."*** We all want the glorious blessings that come from the suffering of Christ but although all this could be desired by everyone, this desire does not indicate that someone has been born again. You don't need to be born again to want all of this. **Simply wanting these things does not make you a Christian; what**

shows that you are born again, is not that you want to be forgiven or anything else. What shows that you are born again is that you want to be with God. Jesus died to bring us to God, not simply not to be punished but to enjoy God for the pleasure doing it forever.

**Ps. 16:11** *"You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."*

- B. Christ suffered once and for all, the just for the unjust to bring us to God for our eternal delight, which means that the best evidence of being born again is not that you want all the blessings the world wants but that you want to be with God. The world does not want to be with God, they do not love him or delight in him; they do not get their satisfaction from Jesus; they want him as the butler who gives them everything they need but they don't want God. The evidence that we are born of God is that we love Him. May God awaken a delight and satisfaction in Him (**Ps. 27:4**).

#### V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Which of the purposes of suffering gives you more hope in the midst of difficulties?
2. Have you meditated on the centrality of Christ's suffering? Explain
3. Do you love God more than anything else in this life? Explain

#### THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **The School for Parents starts this Wednesday August 24 at 7:00 p.m.** Please register on our website [www.housesoflight.org](http://www.housesoflight.org)
2. **Our youth service is this Wednesday, August 24 at 7:00 p.m.**
3. **Our School of Discipleship Graduation will be August 27 and 28 during services.** Come celebrate with our graduating students, friends and family! **The new quarter of School of Discipleship begins September 12;** Registration is now open. Please sign up at the front desk or at [www.housesoflight.org](http://www.housesoflight.org)
4. **The Passion for Jesus Conference and the Leadership Summit is September 8-10.** Register online [www.pasionporjesus.la](http://www.pasionporjesus.la) or at the table outside.