

Lesson 1: Rethinking Suffering

Introduction:

- Uncomfortable, unfortunate, misery, endure, tolerate, hurt, agony, distress, anguish
 - Unpleasant experience
 - These words and others are words, thoughts, and concepts that are associated with suffering.
 - Therefore there is another set of verbs that we connect with suffering:
 - Avoid, avert, escape, evade, deflect, abstain, withdraw, keep clear, faint

Preview:

- In this series we will examine suffering from the Bible. We will allow the Word of God shape and for most of us reshape our thinking about this painful topic that concerns our painful experiences.
 - We will gain a general perspective of how the God desires we think about suffering
 - Then narrow our focus on different kinds or categories of suffering,
 - Partaking in afflictions
 - Knowing the fellowship of Christ's sufferings
 - And finally the immeasurable glory that suffering works, both in this life and the life to come
- In this lesson we will look to the word of truth to gain a general, but necessary, view of suffering and yield to its revelation to reshape our thinking on suffering.

Sermon:

Romans 5:3-5 - "glory in tribulations"

Romans 8:16-18, 28 - "not worthy to be compared with the glory to be revealed in us", "all things work together for good"

Romans 8:35-37 - "in all these things we are more than conquerors"

2 Corinthians 1:8-11 - "trust in God"

2 Corinthians 4:6-18 - "light affliction which is but for a moment worketh for us a far more and exceeding and eternal weight of glory"

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 - "weak and strong", "glory in all my...."

Philippians 1:27-30 - "in nothing terrified by your adversaries", "given to us to suffer for His sake"

Philippians 3:8-11 - "know...the fellowship of His sufferings"

1 Thessalonians 3:1-8 - "appointed to afflictions"

2 Timothy 1:8-11 - "be partaker of the afflictions"

2 Timothy 3:12 - "live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution"

Matthew 5:11-12 - "blessed are those persecuted for righteousness"

John 15:20 - "servant isn't above master, if they persecuted me, they will you"

1 Peter 1:6-9 - "count it all joy"

1 Peter 4:12-14 - "the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you"

Hebrews 5:8 - "learned He obedience by the things which He suffered"

Conclusion:

- As you can see from our brief survey of verses we should expect suffering, but the lot of that suffering isn't to be dire.
- We learn about God through suffering, we can glorify God in our suffering, we are appointed unto it, and there is joy and blessing in suffering.
- May we learn in the remainder of this series what it means to suffer and to suffer with Him, and suffer well to God's glory.