

# Lesson 5: Suffering Works Immeasurable Glory

## Introduction:

- Rethinking Suffering
  - Major theme in the scriptures
- Biblical Kinds of Suffering
  1. Sufferings under the law
  2. Sufferings of this present time
  3. Sufferings of Christ
  4. Sufferings from our own foolishness
- Partaking in Afflictions
  - Instructed to do so
- The Fellowship of Christ's Sufferings
  - Wanting to know Him

## Preview:

- Suffering Works Immeasurable Glory
  - How can suffering work glory?
  - What does that glory look like?

## Sermon:

**{2 Corinthians 4:17} For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;**

- What does that glory look like?
  - It isn't just suffering itself
  - These sufferings of Christ are sufferings that come from somewhere
    - The sufferings of Christ are the experience or fruit of:
      - Sharing the gospel,
      - Sharing the doctrine of godliness, and
      - Living godly
    - The both produce the suffering and provide within the suffering.
      - Cause
        - Gospel truth
        - Godliness doctrine
        - Godly conduct
- How can suffering work glory?

- How do we know His glory?
    - Exodus 33:18
      - Ex. 34:4-7
      - Provide
        - When the suffering happens (attack the message, attack the messenger, discredit or discourage the messenger) the gospel and the doctrine are the means by which the Spirit works patience, endurance, comfort, righteousness, peace, and joy
        - The gospel, godliness provide how to conduct ourselves and even in suffering resist sin, plunge to the depths of love of giving ourselves unjustly in hope of someone else's salvation - meek, temperate behavior governed by the power of His resurrection, experienced in the fellowship of His sufferings.
          - Heb. 11:35, 12:1-4, 11
          - 1 Peter 4:12-15
        - We learn the depth of God's character, by not only the knowledge, but the experience and the greatest depth was in suffering.
          - Romans 2, 9 - longsuffering
          - Romans 12 - recompence to no man evil for evil; overcome evil with good
          - 2 Cor. 3 - changed from glory to glory
            - 2 Cor. 4 - sufferings and God's Word change us to glory
        - All the more we can glory in tribulations, they work for us glory!
        - These are operations of the Spirit of God "worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;"
          - Suffer with Him, glorified together (weight of glory together)
        - Greater love - lay down life for friends
          - Lay down life for enemies
- Philippians 2 & 3
- 2 Timothy 2

### **Conclusion:**

- Rethink Suffering
  - Appointed, Partaker, Fellowship, Gift of His Grace
- Kinds of Suffering
  - Sufferings of this Present Time - Face them in view of God's Word
  - Sufferings of Christ - face them because of God's Word and face them with God's Word

- Partake - Fellowship
- Work Immeasurable Glory
  - Further conformity to the image of Christ