

Philadelphia Church

Why Suffering?

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John 15:18-23

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. ²¹ They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Whoever hates me hates my Father as well.

Two Questions:

1. Why are those who hate God getting away with it?
1. Why am I not being blessed the way others told me I would?

Philippians 3:8-11

⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.



Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Three Ds:

1. Disciplined in the Word
2. Dedicated to Prayer
3. Devoted to Fellowship

1 Corinthians 8:1

Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “We all possess knowledge.” But knowledge puffs up while love builds up.

Quote

I discovered an astonishing truth: God is attracted to weakness. He can't resist those who humbly and honestly acknowledge they need Him. Our weakness, in fact, makes room for His power. - Cymbala

Philippians 3:10-11

¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

John 16:33

33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

1 Thessalonians 3:4

⁴ In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know.

1 Peter 3:15-17

¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷ For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil

Matthew 5:10-12

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Philippians 3:8-9

⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my

Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

Truth

I would rather have Jesus than the approval of
others.

Rewards from Difficulties:

- ◆ Sometimes God uses trials and difficulties to grow us and strengthen our faith.
- ◆ Sometimes God allows trials and suffering to bring us closer to Him.
- ◆ Sometimes God gives us personal testimonies through our trials that glorify Him and our faith in Him.

Quote

You don't really know Jesus is all you need
until Jesus is all you have. - TK