

# Suffering Sermon

**We need to realize though that people get MAD at us when we try to take away their miracles.**

When you're hurting and you're in trouble. You don't WANT to talk doctrine.. you don't Want to hear about dispensations... YOU WANT A MIRACLE, YOU WANT IT FIXED!

**Why don't you just pray for the bank to rip up your mortgage and tell you have a nice day? HMMM??**

Why don't Christians pray for a 'healing' when their cars break down? Why do they just pray for the problem to be minor or the parts to be cheap? HMMM?? Limiting God. tsk, tsk.

**Look back into Israels' Old Testament for some PROFITABLE (2 Tim 3:16) information about Times Past so we can have more perspective on the BUT NOW..**

**ISRAEL'S PROGRAM TO KEEP A RIGHTEOUS STANDING WITH GOD WAS A PERFORMANCE-BASED COVENANT.** Deut 6:25 And it shall be OUR righteousness, if we observe to DO all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.

**DEUT. 28:1-14 (GOD'S PRENUP)**

Not going to read it for time (you do it yourself) 14 verses of blessing for obedience.

VERSES 15-68 of Deut 28 are CURSES! **53 CURSE VERSES!!! CURSES GETTING PROGRESSIVELY WORSE AS ISRAEL KEEPS FALLING AWAY.**

Blessings include: Vs. 3 Crops Good, Cattle Good, Vs. 4 Kids Happy, Healthy. Vs. 7 Winning EVERY war. Vs. 8 Everything you TOUCH will be blessed. Vs. 10 every Nation will FEAR them. Vs. 12 World Bank. (lend to all, borrow from none)

**WHY? WAS IT THAT GOD THOUGHT ISRAEL WAS SO FINE A PEOPLE & DESERVED IT?? NO!!!!**

Deut 28 Vs. 10 And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; IT'S ABOUT ISA 42:6, ABOUT ISRAEL BEING A LIGHT TO THE NATIONS!!! IT was for GOD's Holy Names' SAKE (EZE 36:22)!!!

IT WAS ABOUT GOD AND HIS GLORY, NOT for Israel's sake. It was about showing forth Jehovah God TO THE WORLD, THROUGH ISRAEL. That's why the blessings for obedience were HUGE and the curses For Disobedience were HORRIBLE.

ISRAEL COULD LOOK OUT A WINDOW, ANALYZE THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES AND THEIR LEVEL OF SAFETY AND PROSPERITY, AND KNOW EXACTLY HOW THEY WERE DOING AND HOW GOD FELT ABOUT THEM! most people today try to do that too.

Now Covenant theology is the attempt by MOST OF CHRISTIANITY to apply Israels' Covenant Mentality to the Body of Christ today. This WRONG DIVISION is the cause of untold amounts of failure, frustration, anger, sorrow, chaos, tumult, and despair (limbaugh) in people's lives.

**WHY? BECAUSE IT'S NOT GOD'S PROGRAM TODAY!! IT JUST DOESN'T WORK!!**

**2 Cor 1:3** Blessed [be] God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; 4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. 5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

Some kind of special personal comfort in our tribulations and trials? **A HOLY GHOST HUG?**

I see that I am able to give this comfort to others.

I can't give a Holy Ghost hug to someone else, and I don't get private revelation from God, so I realized this comfort MUST be found in our doctrine from our Bibles.

3 POINTS OF COMFORT TO TALK ABOUT TODAY THAT WE CAN LOOK TO AND SHARE WITH OTHERS TO HELP THEM AS WE/THEY ENCOUNTER TROUBLE.

## #1 GOD IS NOT PUNISHING, TESTING, TRYING, CHASTISING YOU.

This could be the MOST IMPORTANT and most helpful point of comfort for those who are in denominational, covenant theology churches.

When trouble comes, most Christians think it's gotta be God punishing them for sinful behavior or trying or testing them to see if they pass the test. They think this way because their pastor teaches them to! Most people think that HEB 12:6 (chasteneth) is to them when it's to ISRAEL!!

**Through Right Division, we can help people get rid of their burden of guilt!**

### #1 Make sure that they're saved first. (no value in comforting someone who is lost)

**1 COR 15:3** Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

OK, they trust the Savior, now explain further what He did

**2 COR 5:21** For he hath made him [to be] sin FOR US, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Christ already PAID for ALL of your transgressions

**TITUS 2:14** Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity

Christ (through His cross) has Crucified & Destroyed our bodies of Sin

**ROMANS 6:6** Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with [him], that the body of sin might be destroyed He has ALREADY forgiven all of our trespasses, and given us a NEW life (in Him)

**COL 2:13** And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

**2 COR 5:17** Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

This verse is NOT describing a person stopping their old bad habits and starting new good habits, It's about a NEW CREATURE, not new behavior. It's about understanding what God has made us in and through Christ, and our position IN HIM.

**Gal 3:13** Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us:

Stop worrying about God cursing you for this & that (tithes, Malachi) JESUS WAS MADE TO BE A CURSE FOR YOU!

**ROMANS 5:1** Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

We are at peace with God now. He's not at peace with us because we're good people now and go to church and quit hanging out at the bar! We have peace with God because of what Christ did FOR US!

**COL 1:20** And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself;

IMAGINE THE COMFORT THAT THE AVERAGE PERSON WILL GET FROM THIS FIRST POINT! The comfort from understanding that Christ did IT ALL. And with this understanding, of having the guilt and the weight of their sins lifted off of their shoulders FULLY for the first time. Having them understand that God is NOT MAD AT THEM, but AT PEACE with them through the work that CHRIST did, not by us being nice people and doing good deeds.

A person can get GREAT COMFORT when we help them see that their troubles and trials and problems CANNOT be from God punishing their sin, or chastening them.

**Through these verses, a person can understand FULLY, that Rom 8:31. God is FOR THEM, not against them!**

The first question after a person realizes this will be: OK, If God's not chastising me, then why is all this bad stuff happening to me?? Before we answer that, let's get a little more understanding on our situation.

## COMFORT POINT #2 GOD IS NOT TALKING TO YOU THROUGH BAD CIRCUMSTANCES!

First, we should remember the perspective of MOST PEOPLE

**The standard position of Church-ianity is that God is controlling and moving and causing and/or allowing EVERY minute event that happens in one's life in order to accomplish what they call, "The Lord's Will"**

**Furthermore, It's every particular Christians' job to figure out what the Lord's will is by evaluating their CIRCUMSTANCES and making their best guess on what course of action to take in their individual lives.**

Most people are also taught that clean living & following the rules = God's blessing on your life & your family. Be a good boy, and God will give you nice stuff and you'll be happy & healthy.

**This BAD DOCTRINE is transmitted MOSTLY by Denominational teaching that puts US in some way in a Covenant Relationship with God in Israel's old or new Testaments.**

Now, If bad things are happening and the preacher thinks you're sinning too much, he'll probably tell you that God's trying to 'get a hold of your heart' through by allowing or causing these bad things.

WHY? Because the preacher thinks that we're Israel. He thinks that we have a covenant relationship like the folks in Deuteronomy & that God is operating under a Performance program to some degree.

If bad things are happening and the preacher LIKES you and you're a GOOD boy, then he'll probably take this angle:

Brother, God's got a WONDERFUL PLAN for your life, and even though this circumstance is bad, He's trying to show you something with this trial and guide you into HIS perfect will for your life.

You just need to find out what that is brother. Remember, God will GUIDE you in whatever way He wants you to go, and He's in control, and HE'S running this world.

**That's a nice speech and it'll make you feel good for a while, but what saith the Scripture??**

Our BIBLE disagrees with the preacher. Our Bible tells us that there IS a god of this world, and it's Satan! (heresy) 2 Cor 4:4 says SATAN is the GOD OF THIS WORLD

SO, why DO bad things happen to GOOD people???

Because the DEVIL is running the SHOW!!! Because we are sin cursed people living in sin cursed bodies with wicked minds on a sin cursed PLANET!

**Gal 1:4** Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this **present EVIL world**, according to the will of God and our Father:

**This present world is EVIL & Run by the Devil, and God's Ultimate Purpose Driven Plan for us is to GET OUT OF IT!!!!**

**EPH 2:6** And hath raised [us] up together, and made [us] sit together in **heavenly [places]** in Christ Jesus: HOW? He Makes us a NEW creature 2 COR 5:17 Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

**This New Creature is headed for HEAVENLY, not Earthly places!**

OK, that's nice. BUT WHAT ABOUT MY LIFE NOW WHILE I'M HERE ON EARTH?

Understand this world is on a Devlish Course & You've got some evil days ahead!

**EPH 2:2** Wherein in time past ye walked according to the COURSE of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air,

**EPH 5:16** Redeeming the time, because the **days are EVIL.**

**This point #2 may seem DIScomforting at first (God's not giving me signs? Satan's in charge??) But think about it for a second. Isn't it COMFORTING and CALMING to be able to STOP Reading the events of our lives & trying to Find God's plan & purpose with No real information other than our own GUESSWORK?**

It **IS** comforting to KNOW that bad things are NOT happening because we're in TROUBLE with God.

It's even MORE comforting to know that God's NOT trying to guide us in our decisions & plans by smacking us around and making **US** take our best guess as to WHY!!

BAD THINGS HAPPEN BECAUSE WE LIVE ON A SIN CURSED EARTH OF WHICH SATAN IS THE PRINCE. EVERY EVIL DAY IS ANOTHER ON ITS DEVLISH, WICKED COURSE. WE'RE SURROUNDED BY CHILDREN OF WRATH WHO ARE DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SINS, AND WE LIVE IN SIN-

CURSED FLESH THAT IS FALLING APART!! It's as Simple as That!

So now that we know the WHY suffering and troubles come into our lives, what do we do about it??

**POINT #3 CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE (not your circumstances) AND BE THANKFUL!** (which IS the will of God concerning US)

We can take comfort AND GIVE THANKS for the fact that our Lord & Saviour has Rescued our never dying souls from this horrible situation, delivered us from the POWER of Sin's darkness, and raised us up out of this mess - how? - By giving us newness of life IN HIM Through his Cross!

Let's first identify how **askew** our perspective generally is:

\* We pray and confess our sins when he tells us he's already nailed them all to His cross.

\* We think God's mad at us when our Bible tells us he's at PEACE with us.

\* We pray for carnal earthly blessings when our Bible tells us our blessings are in heavenly places.

\* We pray for healings and miracles when God tells us He's NOT going to fix our problems, but He'll give us grace to endure the hardness as a good soldier.

\* We say we made Jesus the Lord of our lives and all we do all day is tell HIM what to do for US!

We obviously have a problem setting our affections on things above. (COL 3:2)

See the bigger picture.

Think about this: We as saved people are ALREADY in Christ. God considers our flesh to be dead already, we're judicially seated in heavenly places, and the Lord's ALREADY given us HIS imputed righteousness based on HIS already completed work.

Well, that begs the question: why in the world does He still keep us here on Earth then? Why doesn't He just zap us out of here as soon as we trust Christ's payment for our sins?

**2 COR 5:18** And all things [are] of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to US the ministry of reconciliation; {20} Now then we are ambassadors for Christ.

We are here as ambassadors for the SOLE PURPOSE of witnessing and sharing the gospel of Christ to a lost and dying world! We're not building a kingdom on earth, we're not here for God to give us stuff and to live healthy and wealthy lives, The only reason we're still here is to do the work of this ministry and suffer for our Lord and Saviour!

We're here to shine as lights in this present evil world and we're competing against the ANGEL of light! Satan **PHILL 1:29** For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to SUFFER for his sake;

NOW, this knowledge gives us some understanding but it doesn't make our pains and problems any less PAINFUL. How then can God's Word help us in bad times?

**2 COR 12:9** And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.

**BUT**. This is REALLY bad, I need God to FIX THIS for me.

**NO, Stop for a second.** The Lord says that His Grace **IS** sufficient. Is God a man that He should lie? NO. Why is His grace sufficient? Because HIS strength is manifest in OUR weakness.

Remember why we're still here. TO demonstrate the POWER of God in our mortal bodies to a lost and dying world!

**2 COR 4:6** For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in OUR hearts, to [give] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. {7} But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, (WHY) that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

We have been entrusted with this ministry of reconciliation to the world, but our Fuel, our Power source for the mission is from God, not our OWN strength.

IN ROM 5:3, Paul says he's not just **OK** with his sufferings, He GLORIES IN THEM!

**HOW IN THE WORLD DOES HE DO THAT???**

He can glory in his sufferings because of the COMFORT that comes from having a full knowledge of

his PURPOSE in Christ and the way his sufferings can HELP him be a more EFFECTIVE ambassador for his Lord & Saviour.

IN Christ, our problems and troubles become TOOLS in our Ministry Toolbox!

**Rom 5:3** we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

THE LESSONS WE LEARN THROUGH OUR 'LIGHT AFFLICTIONS' IN THIS LIFE HELP US MINISTER OUR GLORIOUS GOSPEL IN WAYS THAT WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO WITHOUT THEM.

### **It's not Halleluiah! I've got Cancer!!**

It's Glory to God! Through this affliction, I'll have the opportunity to minister to all of those folks in the cancer ward as one of THEM and have understanding of their situation while I'm doing it!

**That's changing our perspective on things.** Changing our perspective doesn't lessen the pain or fix the problem, but by remembering our PURPOSE, we can focus on finding ways to let GOD'S power work through us while we're suffering.....that's where you find the GLORY in your troubles.

Our Bible gives us some practical information on how God's sufficient grace will manifest itself in our lives as we grow in knowledge and understanding.

**2 COR 4:7** But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. [We are] troubled on every side, yet not distressed; [we are] perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

That's it. We're here to Endure Hardness and be good soldiers - Just like men in the Army, we're in a battle and we must press on through our troubles because we know that the MISSION is the top priority, (not the comfort, health, or safety of the individual soldier) and it needs to be completed