

Suffering for the Glory of God

Week 1: The Problem of Suffering and the Bible's Answer

The wisdom of God and a call to trust

Week 2: God's Revealed Purposes for Suffering

How God can use suffering for our good and His glory

Week 3: The Future of Suffering

The importance of heaven and hell for a suffering Christian

Week 4: God's Grief over Suffering

The empathy of a suffering God

Week 5: Unbiblical Reactions to Suffering

Temptations to find hope in what is passing away

Week 6: Fighting for faith, Part 1

Struggling for faith in God's sovereignty and goodness

Week 7: Fighting for faith, Part 2

Helping others fight for faith in the local church

Week 8: Sharing Their Burdens

A biblical perspective on the relief of physical suffering

Week 9: Suffering as Witness

Making the most of your suffering for the glory of God

Week 10: Applying the Framework

Suffering through illness

Week 11: Suffering for the gospel

Biblical wisdom for the persecuted

Week 12: The Secret of Contentment

Finding joy in Christ in any and every situation

Week 13: Panel Discussion

Questions? Email

Further Reading: *How Long O Lord* by D. A. Carson

Core Seminars—Suffering for God's Glory **Class 5: Unbiblical Reactions to Suffering**



Temptations to Find Hope in What is Passing Away

Introduction

What are some practical benefits of thinking through unbiblical responses to suffering?

I. The stiff upper lip: God doesn't exist

Self-reliance as practical atheism

Two strategies as remedy:

1) Humble yourself

1 Peter 5:6-7 “Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”

2) Consider God's goals for your suffering

1 Peter 1:7 “that your faith . . . may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed”

II. **Escape: *Running to false gods***

Isaiah 30:1-3, 7 "...Egypt's help is worthless and empty."

1 Corinthians 7:29-31 "From now on . . . those who use the things of the world [should live] as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away."

III. **I Deserve Better: *God rewards the righteous***

The "why me" problem.

But perhaps your goals are too small?

Isaiah 49:6 "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."

Would you be surprised if you suffered?

1 Peter 4:12-13 "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed."

IV. **Fear: *God can't help it***

Is God able to know the future?

Isaiah 46:9-10 "I make known the end from the beginning...My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please."

Psalms 139:4 "Before a word is on my tongue, you know it completely, O LORD."

When judging from God's perspective, we can have peace (Psalm 73)

V. **God Has it out for me: *He is not good for me***

The question of guilt

Hebrews 12:5-8 "...the Lord disciplines those he loves..."

1. This passage is meant as encouragement.
2. God's discipline is for our good.
3. God's discipline shows that we are his children.

The question of God's purposes – are they good for *me*?

1. Trusting God's purposes is part of being a Christian
2. Pray for faith in God's goodness

Conclusion