

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

Core Seminars—Suffering for God's Glory **Class 11: Suffering for the Gospel**



Biblical Wisdom for the Persecuted

Introduction

I. What is Persecution?

1. Matthew 5:11 “Blessed are you when others revile you...on my account.”
2. John 15:19 “...but I chose you out of the world... therefore the world hates you.”
3. 1 Peter 4:3-4 “...they malign you.”
4. Luke 21:12 “...delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons...”
5. Acts 22:4 “I persecuted the Way to the death...”

II. Why is it important for us to persevere?

A review of God's revealed purposes for suffering...

1. Because it's a normal part of following Jesus.

2 Tim. 3:12 “Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”

Gal. 5:11 “...the offense of the cross.”

Mark 8:34-38 “Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.”

2. To glorify God

Colossians 1:24 “Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's affliction for the sake of his body, that is, the church.”

III. How can I be faithful in persecution

1. How does this suffering challenge my view of who God is?
2. What am I tempted to trust in other than God?
3. How can I fight for faith?

4. How can I conduct myself so that God is glorified in my life through this difficult time?

- Rejoice knowing your reward is great.

John 13:3-4 “Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist.”

Philippians 2:12 “Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—“

- Rejoice in a greater assurance

1 Peter 1:6-7 “In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ”

- Rejoice In knowing how Christ has loved you.

Romans 8:31-32 “What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”

IV. Conclusion