

“PARTAKERS OF CHRIST’S SUFFERING” #1

INTRODUCTION

There are many many passages in the NT that refer to “suffering.” Several deal with the suffering that Christ did for mankind while on earth, and some refer to the suffering of Christians, who suffer either because of mistakes they have made, or because of their righteous conduct relating to what Christ did for them.

The word “suffer” means “to endure, or to experience”, whether emotionally or physically. In this lesson we shall examine the sufferings of CHRIST and then the sufferings of CHRISTIANS.

DISCUSSION

I. In the 1st place, let’s consider the SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST.

A. Christ not only suffered opposition and persecution during His lifetime on earth, but He suffered on the cross as a climax of His sufferings.

B. WHY was Christ willing to suffer “in the flesh?”

1. 1st, it was the **will of God** that He thus suffered. Heb. 10:5-8

2. 2nd, Christ suffered **for our sins**. Isa. 53:4-6; 1 Cor. 15:3

3. 3rd, Christ died **as an offering** to atone for us. Isa. 53:10

4. 4th. Christ died **to fulfill scripture**. Luke 24:26, 46

a. Much of His suffering was before His death. Matt. 16:24

b. His suffering was climaxed in His death itself, as He was mocked, spat upon and His body was nailed to the cross and His side pierced with the soldiers’ swords.

5. 5th, Christ suffered as a necessary step **to enter into glory**. Luke 24:26

6. 6th, Christ suffered as **an example for us**. 1 Pet. 2:21

II. In the 2nd place, let’s consider the SUFFERINGS OF CHRISTIANS.

A. Christians suffer to have the **same mind as Christ**. Phil. 2:5, 7

B. Christians also suffer because it is the **will of God**, under the consequence of following Him Who suffered for us. 1 Pet. 4:1-2

C. We also suffer to **partake of His sufferings**. 1 Pet. 4:13; 2 Cor. 1:7

D. We also suffer to **glorify God**. 1 Pet. 4:16

1. We glorify God when we avoid idolatry. Rom. 1:21-23

2. We also glorify God when we avoid fornication. Rom. 1:24-28

3. We also glorify God when we demonstrate that we have ceased to make sin our way of life. 1 Pet. 4:1-3

E. Finally, we suffer that we too might **reign with Christ**. Rom. 8:17; Heb. 12:1-2

CONCLUSION

I. Brethren, we never know what the future holds for Christians in the great land of America.

A. With the increase of the Islam religion in America, and in our political system, we never know how long we will be able to worship as we please and stay on God’s side in this wicked world.

B. Even the atmosphere of local citizens and even in the church, it is difficult to stand

for the general and specific teachings of the scriptures in the world today.
II If you are willing to take your stand for truth, won't you become a Christian, or be restored if your life has been separated from God due to sin in your life?

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