

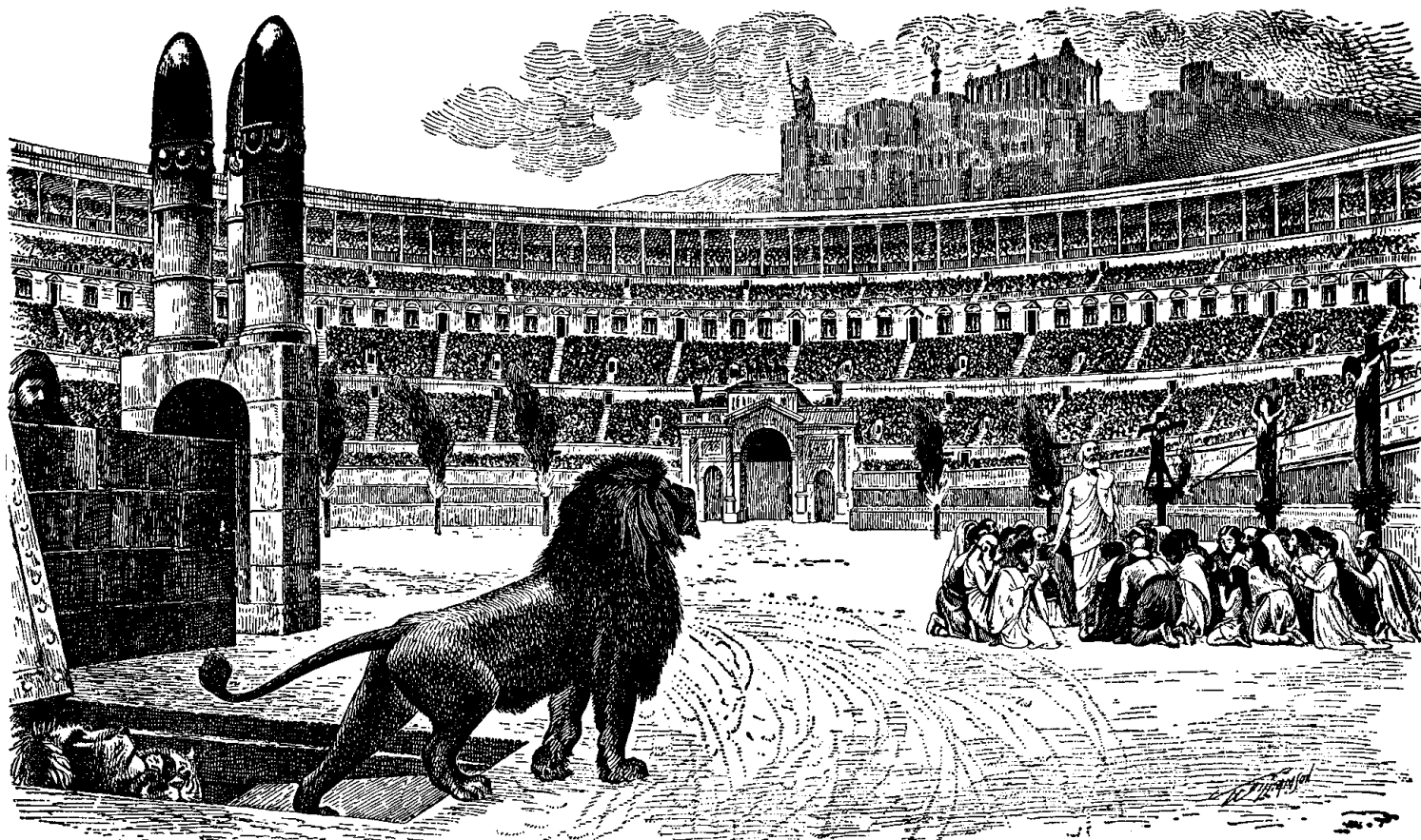
# The Sword AND Staff

*"Preach the Word." (II Timothy 4:2)*

•

*"Feed the Flock." (I Peter 5:2)*

## The Meaning of Suffering in the Life of the Christian



• By JAMES E. GIBBONS, 129 Cherry Street, Mount Airy, North Carolina 27030

THE WORLD IS continually perplexed by the problem of human suffering—"WHY?"

The Christian knows why there is so much suffering in the world—the human family is under the curse of sin; the human body is under the sentence of death (Genesis 3:16-19; Romans 8:18-23). Sooner or later suffering comes to all. All have an appointment with death which must be kept (Hebrews 9:27). Let's face it. We are not going to get out of this world alive.

But all suffering, or pain, is not bad. What if the human body could not suffer pain? Pain is the body's alarm system which lets us know when something goes wrong. Without this alarm system, we could have something drastically wrong with our bodies, and not knowing it, die. Pain lets us know that something is wrong and that something must be done to correct our problem.

(Continued on Page 3)

**THE SWORD AND STAFF**  
Post Office Box 147  
Mount Airy, N. C. 27030

**Subscription Rates:** \$1.00 introductory rate for the first year; \$1.50 per year, regular; 5 additional gift subscriptions, \$1.00 per subscription; any number above this, 50¢ per subscription; other arrangements: send a list of names and addresses, and they will be sent free samples.

The *Sword and Staff* is published monthly by the Locust Grove church on the old Fries Road in north Galax, Virginia. James E. Gibbons is the editor. Second class postage paid at Galax, Virginia.

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**Proverbs of Today**

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*Friend, if you are not right with God, you are not right—you are wrong; and if you die that way, you will be dead wrong.*

*“When a man is wrong, and won’t admit it, he usually gets angry.”*

*When you get to the bottom, the only way you can look is up—sinner, turn to God!*

*“If there is no sorrow for sin there is no joy in salvation.”*

*Let us stop fooling ourselves—a half-hearted religion will not even take us half-way to heaven.*

*“If we have an attack of real religion, it will be contagious.”*

*A person who loves the Lord with ALL his heart, ALL his soul, and ALL his mind has no problem in coming to ALL the services of the church.*

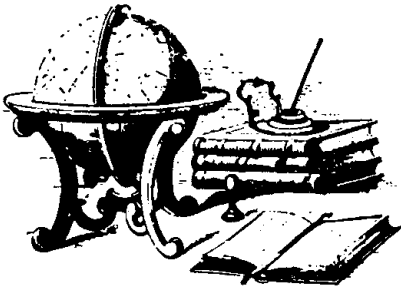
*“Salvation is free, but discipleship is costly.”*

*Preacher, are you interested more in fleecing the sheep (getting a good income and support for yourself) than in feeding the flock of God (really teaching the whole council of God, and actually setting churches in order)?—God wants more than hirelings!*

*“Honesty in little things is not a little thing.”*

*The preacher who “waters down” his message does not faithfully “plant” and “water” the work of God.*

*“People who get down to brass tacks usually rise rapidly.”*



**EDITORIAL**  
**COMMENTS...**

**TWO “FIRSTS” AND REFLECTIONS**

AS THE EDITOR of this paper writes these words, two “firsts” have just taken place in his life: (1) he has reached the age of 40 (April 20th), and (2) he is in the hospital for the first time (admitted May 8th), recuperating from an operation.

These facts have made us stop and count our blessings. At the same time, we are made very much aware of the brevity and frailty of life. Having been made more aware of our humanity, we are humble, and with the experience of suffering, we are made to feel more compassionate. We love the Lord more.

Our experience with suffering finds us reading the book of Job (read it) and the Psalms (they are good). While you are reading, read the 34th Psalm. This Psalm is most expressive, and conveys this writer’s feelings about the Lord. Praise the Lord! □

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**A STATEMENT OF POLICY**

AT VARIOUS TIMES different ones have inquired concerning putting news items and ads (even paid advertisement) in this paper. Perhaps at this time it would be appropriate to state publicly the purpose and policy of this paper. THE SWORD AND STAFF is a preaching-teaching paper. Because of that, and because the size of our paper is not large, we do not take outside advertizing, nor do we run news items. We limit ourselves to our own ad material, keeping it small, so we can get our preaching-teaching mission accomplished.

We trust this explains our position to anyone who is interested and has questions. □

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**TWO ELDERS AND THEIR PANTS**

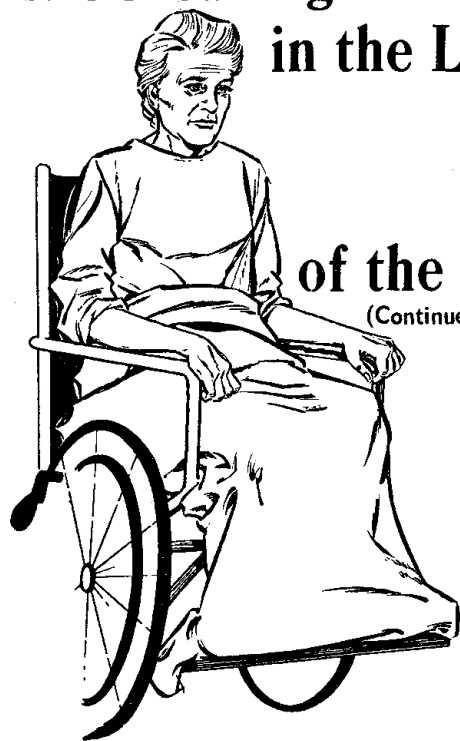
Two elders’ wives sat mending their husband’s pants. One of them said to the other, “My poor John, he is so discouraged in his church work. He said the other day he was considering resigning. It seems that nothing goes right for him.”

The other replied, “Why, my husband was saying just the opposite. He is so enthused, it seems like the Lord is closer to him than ever before.”

A hushed silence fell as they continued to mend the trousers, one patching the knees and the other the seat. . . .

—Current Events

# The Meaning of Suffering in the Life



## of the Christian

(Continued from Page 1)

Romans 8:28 is a marvelous verse for the true Christian. Listen: *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."*

Please notice. (1) It didn't say that all things worked together for our convenience, our comfort and pleasure—but for our GOOD. (2) But we must love God and be called according to His purpose. In other words, for this verse to apply to us we must be real Christians, consecrated and unreservedly devoted to the Lord. The lukewarm "church member" does not fit into this verse.

Every situation in life is a challenge for the Christian. If he keeps his faith and the right attitude, he is never the victim, but the victor; he is never conquered, but is always the conqueror. In every circumstance of life (bond or free, Titus 2:9, 10; living, suffering or dying, etc.) it is a challenge to him to face up to his situation and let the world see how a true Christian is to act and react; and by doing so, to adorn (make beautiful) the doctrine of God.

James wrote in his epistle: "My brethren, count it all joy (be glad) when ye fall into divers temptations (various kinds of trials); Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing" (James 1:2-8). Then James admonishes that we pray for wisdom that we can see the lesson to be learned in our suffering, that we may get the most good out of it.

As we said, the Christian should be "on top" of every situation. He is the victor, not the victim. Paul writes, "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things... Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?... Nay, IN ALL THESE THINGS WE ARE MORE THAN CON-

QUERORS, through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:31-39).

Paul also wrote to the Corinthians, "For all things are your's; Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are your's; And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's" (I Cor. 3:21-23). In other words, all things are servants to the Christian. Even death itself is his servant. If we really are right with the Lord, truly love Him, and believe the Bible, what is so bad about death after all? It will serve to deliver us from this old world of wrath and tears. Could anything be more wonderful than to be ushered into the very presence of the Lord with "joy unspeakable and full of glory" (I Peter 1:8, 9)? Paul declared that to die was gain (Philippians 1:21). And it is for the Christian!

Then the apostles, having been beaten because of their testimony for Jesus, "departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name" (Acts 5:41). Of their situation, Paul wrote, "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" (II Cor. 4:8-10). Every Christian was likewise admonished, "But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy" (I Peter 4:13). They were glad that they could experience suffering like the Saviour since he had suffered so much for them. How we need this attitude today!

God does not usually take away ordinary suffering in a Christian's life (unless in some special case in answer to prayer). We are still in this physical body which is under the penalty of death. If God completely sheltered and "babied" Christians from all suffering and trials, the world would be flocking into the church out of selfish motives. No, not all of suffering is bad. God uses suffering to help the Christian spiritually. There is much good that can come from it. But Christians must approach suffering with the right attitude. We must be resigned to the will of God.

### I. SUFFERING MAKES US HUMBLE.

Long periods of unbroken health and prosperity are not always the best for man. Man has a tendency to feel a little too secure and a little too self-sufficient, and consequently forgets God. He has a tendency to forget that he is mortal, or, at least he postpones it from his mind. He forgets that his life is very, very frail and fragile, and that it is constantly lived on the brink of eternity. It seems that it is during the periods of man's greatest prosperity that he becomes the most wicked.

From the Creation to the Flood the life span of man approached a thousand years, with Methuselah having the oldest recorded age of 969 years. But after the Flood the average age of man fell back to about what it is today. There have been various attempts to explain this. The Bible doesn't say, but could one of the reasons be that man's life was shortened so he would recognize his need

(Continued on Page 6)

# HOW TO AVOID CRITICISM

CORPSES ARE seldom criticized, even by those who were their enemies in life. When one dies, enemies and friends alike usually join in to offer some sort of praise and commendation. This teaches us that the best way to avoid criticism is to keep your mouth shut. Then nobody that is doing wrong will have a bad word for you. But just as sure as you open your mouth for truth and right, then the knocks will begin to come down on your head. No one ever criticizes a graveyard or a corpse. So if you want to avoid criticism, make like a dead man. Of course, God and everyone who DOES stand for the right will criticize you.

Abraham Lincoln said, "I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to what light I have. I must stand with anybody that stands right, stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong."

—Good Reading

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## "IS THE WAY LONG?"

I ONCE READ a story of a young mother who, beginning on the pathway of life, asked the question, "Is the way long?" The guide answered, "Yes, and the way is hard. When you are old you will find the end is better than the beginning."

Yet all was well and the mother was happy. Nothing could be better than this. She played with her children, gathered flowers, bathed with them in the clear streams and life was good.

Suddenly the path was dark for night had fallen. She gathered her children, cold with fear, and put her arms around them. The children said, "We are not afraid, Mother, for you are near." And the mother thought, this is a better time for I have taught my children courage. When morning came, there was a hill in sight. As the children grew weary with the walk, the mother said, "A little patience and we'll be there." So the children climbed till they reached the top. They ran to mother's arms and said, "We could not have done it without you." That night the mother thought, "Today is a better day, for I have given my children strength."

The next day was a strange day, for clouds of war and hate filled the sky. And the mother cried to her chil-

ren, "Lift up your eyes and look above the darkness," and they saw the sweet beauty of an everlasting glory and it guided them beyond the darkness. Then the mother cried, "This has been the best day of all for I have shown my children God."

Time passed—years came, and the mother grew old. She was small and frail, but her children were strong and great. They carried her gently over the last hill, and then she knew, the end was better than the beginning.

The greatest need in America today is a Christian mother in every home. One that leads and guides the house. One able to convert even an unbelieving husband by her life. "A worthy woman, who can find, her price is far above rubies." "Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excelleth them all" (Prov. 31:29).

—Selected

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### I WILL...

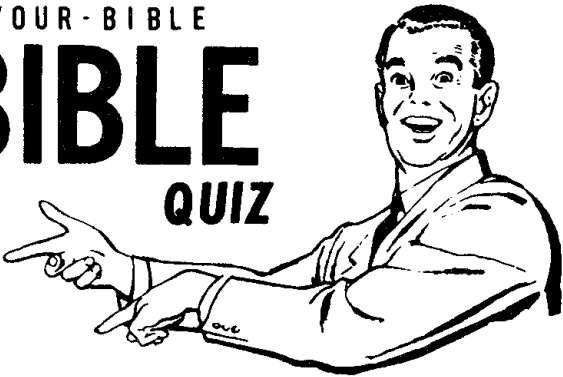
*I will follow the upward road today.  
I will keep my face to the light.  
I will keep high thoughts as I go my way.  
I will do what I know is right.*

—Selected

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### KNOW-YOUR-BIBLE

## BIBLE QUIZ



1. What was the homeland of Job, who endured great trials and sufferings?
2. Of which plague did Pharaoh's magicians say, "This is the finger of God"?
3. What personal malady befell the Philistines who captured the ark of God?
4. Who recovered the dead body of king Saul from the Philistines and buried it?
5. "A ——— answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger."
6. What kind of generation did Jesus say sought after a sign?
7. While in Capernaum on one occasion, in what unusual way did Jesus obtain money to pay taxes?
8. To whom did Jesus say, "Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God"?
9. What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira?
10. Where was Timothy when Paul wrote the epistle of I Timothy to him?

(Answers found elsewhere in this issue)

# Latest Discovery Proves Mormonism False

IN 1835 THE MORMONS purchased some Egyptian rolls of papyrus. Joseph Smith, the Mormon "prophet," purportedly translated a portion of the papyrus and published it under the title "The Book of Abraham." This book is now found as part of "The Pearl of Great Price," one of the four standard works of the Mormon church. Mormons claim that this "Book of Abraham" was written by Abraham personally, on papyrus, while he was in Egypt. The book contains five chapters and, besides mentioning Abraham and his activities, it also mentions Adam, Noah, Ham, Sarah, Nahor, Haran and others.

For many years the Mormon leaders claimed that the original papyri from which the "Book of Abraham" was translated were destroyed in the great Chicago fire of 1871. Then on November 27, 1967 the *Desert News*, a Mormon newspaper, announced that "a collection of papyrus manuscripts, long believed to have been destroyed in the Chicago fire of 1871, was presented to the Church... by the Metropolitan Museum of Art... Included in the papyri is a manuscript identified as the original document from which Joseph Smith had copied the drawing which he called 'Facsimile No. 1' and published with the Book of Abraham."

The Facsimile No. 1 is a drawing of a man lying on a table with another man standing over him, holding something in his hand. Joseph Smith interpreted this scene to be an Egyptian idolatrous priest preparing to offer Abraham as a sacrifice on the altar. In the original drawing obtained by the Mormons, however, the head of the "idolatrous priest" was missing and the object in the hand was also missing. But Smith, supposedly capable of understanding the meaning of such ancient documents, restored the head and object in the priest's hand. So in the "Book of Abraham" portion of "The Pearl of Great Price" the drawing is complete.

But now the cat is out of the bag, for these papyri are available for study by scholars of Egyptology and they have actually been translated. In fact a Mormon Philologist, Dee Jay Nelson, has made a translation of the papyrus fragment from which Joseph

Smith "translated" the "Book of Abraham" AND FOUND NO MENTION OF ABRAHAM WHATEVER IN IT. Mr. Nelson was unable to find any mention of Abraham or his religion in any portion of the papyri. He found the names of many pagan gods who were worshipped by the Egyptians but NOTHING concerning the God of Abraham.

What was the document then? Dee Jay Nelson has proven that the Papyrus fragment is an Egyptian "Book of Breathings" which deals with the religious philosophy of restoring life and breath to the dead. It was written at a late period, probably during the Ptolemaic period (after 332 B. C.).

What about the drawings in Joseph Smith's "Book of Abraham" he called "Facsimile No. 1" which he claimed was a representation of an idolatrous priest trying to sacrifice Abraham on an altar? Mr. Dee Jay Nelson, a Mormon himself, remember, tells us that it is in reality the god Anubius preparing a mummified body. He says the scene is very familiar to him and appears on a wall in an Egyptian temple in bas-relief twenty-nine times. In each case the standing figure is Anubius preparing to embalm the body of Osiris who is shown lying on his funeral bier.

You will recall that the papyrus fragment purchased by the Mormons was badly damaged and the head of the standing figure was missing. However, in Joseph Smith's "Facsimile No. 1" the head is restored and is the head of MAN. Undoubtedly the head was crudely drawn in by Smith or someone assisting him. But, unfortunately for Smith (and Mormonism) he failed to realize that the head of the figure was actually that of a JACKAL and NOT A MAN. Now that the document has been translated and other similar drawings have been uncovered, it can be stated with certainty that Smith's restoration of the drawing and translation of the papyrus fragment ARE SIMPLE FRAUDS.

What does all this mean and why does it remove the foundation from beneath the entire religion of Mormonism? Joseph Smith was supposed to have been an inspired prophet. He was supposedly directed by God in his work of translating such inscriptions

as the "golden plates" of the Book of Mormon and the papyri of the Book of Abraham. But now the truth is known. He was a fraud. His Book of Abraham has absolutely no historical basis and is simply the product of Smith's imagination. And since the whole Mormon religion hinges upon Smith's integrity as a prophet, Mormonism must be false because its chief source of authority (Smith) was false. Because Smith has now been determined to have produced nothing more than a clever FAKE in the Book of Abraham, we have no reason to accept his word that he actually saw and translated the Book of Mormonism from "golden tablets." With their writings gone, Mormonism falls. At last the truth is out. Mormonism is not of God but is merely the figment of the fertile imagination of Joseph Smith and his fellow conspirators (or dupes).

The book *The Joseph Smith Papyri* by Dee Jay Nelson is available from Modern Microfilm Co., Box 1884, Salt Lake City, Utah 84110 for anyone who would like to read it for himself (price 75 cents). The publishers of this work made arrangements for placing an ad in the *Desert News* (a Mormon controlled daily newspaper in Salt Lake City), offering the book for sale but the paper refused to accept the ad. When contact was made with high Mormon officials about the matter they refused to give any assistance. This evidence should mean a death blow to Mormonism.

It has been a long time in coming, but at last it can be known. Mormonism is a FRAUD and NOT OF GOD! □

—News and Truths

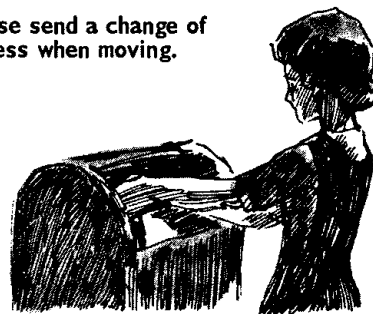
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## Answers to "KNOW-YOUR-BIBLE" BIBLE QUIZ

1. Job 1:1;
2. Exodus 8:16-19;
3. 1 Samuel 5:1, 6-12;
4. 1 Chronicles 10:8-12;
5. Proverbs 15:1;
6. Matthew 16:4;
7. Matthew 17:24-27;
8. Matthew 22:23-33;
9. Acts 5:1-10;
10. 1 Timothy 1:1-3.

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Please send a change of address when moving.



# THE MEANING OF SUFFERING IN THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN (Continued from Page 3)

of God more? During the period of time when men lived so long, they became exceedingly wicked—so wicked that God destroyed the world with a universal flood. Men of the world tend to leave God off until late in life. And living so long, man would become so hardened and depraved that he would not turn to God at all in his later years.

The Laodiceans illustrate our point of being a little too self-sufficient. The Lord's indictment against them was, "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see" (Revelation 3:17,18). Prosperity had not helped this church spiritually.

However, misfortune and suffering make us humble. It makes us realize that we are the sin-cursed creature, and not the Creator. It makes us realize as the flower of the grass we soon fade away; that nothing in this old world is permanent, not even man. It is said of king Manasseh of Judah, as he was being taken into captivity, "And when he was in affliction, he besought the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers" (II Chronicles 33:12). Suffering makes us humble.

In the Psalms we read this fitting prayer of David: "Lord make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah. Surely every man walketh in a vain shew: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them" (Psalms 39:4-6). Recognizing man's frailty and brevity of life makes us humble. Experiencing suffering brings these truths home to us in a very personal way.

The apostle Paul had some kind of physical infirmity which he calls his "thorn in the flesh." He asked the Lord to take it away three times, but God did not honor his request. Suffering this infirmity would be one means God would use to keep him humble (II Cor. 12:7-10).

Christian, let us learn the lesson of humility from suffering, being made very much aware of just how weak and fragile we really are. Let us learn to depend upon the Lord, and live for eternity. "Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray" (James 5:13a). "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (I Peter 5:6,7).

## II. SUFFERING PURIFIES AND PERFECTS.

Within all of us there are imperfections, there is dross, and there may be secret sins which need to be gotten rid of. Our consecration may not be complete. Suffering purifies us like the smelting process of ores. Peter refers to this when he speaks of "the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth though it be tried with fire" (I Peter 1:7). Just as the gold is refined to a greater stage of purity, suffering purifies the Christian. We are brought face to face with ourselves (just

who and how weak we are), our sins, and our God. Purification takes place as we repent.

Peter also wrote, "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin. That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God" (I Peter 4:1,2). In suffering we are able to get our values straightened out and see everything in the proper perspective—see the things that really count in life (like loving and serving God with all of our hearts).

Then Peter also wrote, "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you" (I Peter 5:10). Suffering, whether it be from persecution or otherwise, will lead to all of these things being accomplished in our lives if we will but let it.

To further emphasize what we are saying, examine Hebrews 12:5-11. "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

Beloved, let us have the proper attitude toward our suffering. If we let Him, God will use it for our eternal well-being. It purifies. It helps us develop character. With the Psalmist of old we can cry out, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes" (Psalms 119:71). With Paul we can testify that "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" (Romans 5:3-5). Amen!

## III. SUFFERING MAKES US COMPASSIONATE.

One who has experienced suffering has a feeling toward the suffering of others that he never had before. He may have shown concern, and even sympathy, toward those fallen into adverse circumstances. But once he has suffered, his feelings turn into compassion. He personally knows what his fellow human being is enduring, and his heart goes out to him. That is why Christians, as members of the same body, should have deep feelings for one another. "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it" (I Cor. 12:26).

We can see this truth in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is now our faithful high priest, interceding in heaven on our behalf. Under the Old Testament, to qual-



ify, the high priest had to be taken from among his brethren. Jesus became flesh and blood and lived among us. "Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted" (Hebrews 2:17,18). "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:15,16). Jesus suffered in the flesh. Jesus was tempted to sin. That being the case, we know he has a deep feeling of compassion toward us.

And, after we have suffered, we have a deeper feeling of compassion toward Jesus. Just think what an awful death he died on the cross of Calvary that we might be saved from our sins! We are made to love him even more. Praise His Name!

It is good that through suffering we can come to have more compassion for our fellow human beings. This is God's will.

**TOMORROW vs. TODAY**

What will you do with Jesus?  
The call comes low and clear;  
The solemn words are sounding  
Now in your listening ear.  
Immortal life's in the question  
And joy through eternity,  
Then what will you do with Jesus?  
Oh, what will your answer be?

"Tomorrow," he promised his conscience;  
"Tomorrow, I mean to believe;  
Tomorrow, I'll think as I ought to;  
Tomorrow, my Savior receive.  
Tomorrow, I'll conquer the habits  
That hold me from heaven away."  
But, ever his conscience repeated  
One word, and one only: "Today!"

Tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow—  
Thus, day after day, it went on;  
Tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow—  
Till youth like a vision was gone;  
Till age and his passions had written  
The message of fate on his brow,  
And forth from the shadows came death  
With the pitiless syllable, "Now!"

—Author Unknown

**IV. SUFFERING MAKES US THANKFUL.**

Many times we are not thankful. We really don't know how to be thankful. We have always had good health and lived in an affluent society. But once suffering comes, that picture is changed. We stop and count our blessings. We are made to realize just how good God has been to us. We are more thankful for the Saviour. We learn to appreciate and enjoy even the little things in life.

God wants Christians to be a thankful people. There is nothing more obnoxious than the ingrate. Suffering cannot be all bad when it makes us be more thankful.

KIND READER, as we bring this article to a close, we ask, what does suffering personally mean to you? What it means to you, whether it will be a blessing or not, will all be determined by you (as you keep your faith and the right attitude). Let us take the Lord Jesus as our example as we face suffering. He prayed, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matthew 26:39). Then if God does not see to answer our prayer in the affirmative let us pray with Jesus, "O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done" (Matthew 26:42). Being resigned to God's will, let us get all the spiritual good that we can out of our suffering. Remember: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). Also remember this blessed promise: "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5b). God will give you grace to bear it. AMEN! □

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**"Shall I Force My Children to Go to Church?"**

"Shall I make my child go to church?" Yes, and with no further discussion about the matter. Are you startled? Why? How do you answer Junior when he comes to breakfast on Monday morning and announces to you that he isn't going to school anymore? You know! Junior goes! How do you answer him when he comes in very besmudged and says: "I'm not going to take a bath." Junior bathes, doesn't he?

Why all this timidity then in the realm of his spiritual guidance and growth? Going to wait and let him decide what church he will go to when he is old enough? Quit kidding. You didn't wait until you were old enough. You didn't wait until he was old enough to decide whether he wished to remain dirty or be clean. Do you wait until he is old enough to decide if he wants to take medicine when he is sick?

What will you say when Junior announces he does not like to go to church? That's easy to answer. Just be consistent. Tell him, "Junior, in our family we all go to church and that includes you!" Your firmness and examples will furnish a bridge over which youthful rebellion travels into rich and satisfying experiences in personal religious living.

The parents of America can strike a telling blow against the forces which contribute to our juvenile delinquency, if our mothers and fathers will take their children to worship our Lord regularly.

—J. Edgar Hoover.

READERS'

... Response

MISSOURI:

■ "Please send me *The Sword and Staff* for one year. I am happy to read this paper at College, Ozark Bible College. You have some good ideas in this paper."

PENNSYLVANIA:

■ "Bro. \_\_\_\_\_ conveyed to us that you had been hospitalized, but it is good to know that you are back home and I want you to know you have our prayers here... for your continued improvement."

"I have all the faith in the Lord that he will continue to strengthen one of His flock that has done so much in spreading the great gospel to the world."

"If there is anything that I can do to help you in your Christian work, any typing, book work of any kind, or whatever it might be to help lighten your load at this time, please let me know."

(EDITOR'S COMMENT: Thank you for your letter! Receiving a letter like this, a person couldn't help but feel better. It is a great encouragement to us.)

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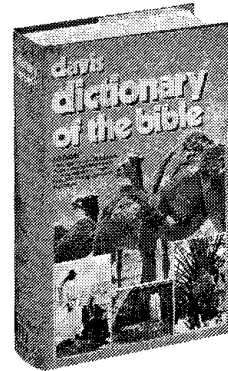
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