

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: Panel Discussion

Week 13: The Secret of Contentment

Finding joy in Christ in any and every situation

Questions? [Teacher Email Addresses]

Core Seminars—Suffering for God's Glory

Class 1: The Problem of Suffering & the Bible's Answer



The wisdom of God and a call to trust

I. Introduction

Your last chance to live by faith

Living in apparent tension between God's proclaimed character and our experience

Do not be surprised (1 Peter 4:12)

II. Class Overview – Where are we headed?

“Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.”

1 Peter 2:12

III. The Origin of Suffering

Genesis 3: The beginning of suffering

Revelation 21: The end of suffering

IV. What Job Teaches About Suffering

1. Suffering is real
2. God is Sovereign over suffering
3. There is such a thing as ‘innocent suffering’—that is, suffering that is not specific punishment for a specific sin.
4. Our job is not to understand but to trust

Habakkuk’s response: “Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.” (3:17-18)

4. The Cross: exhibit “A” that God can use suffering for his glory *and* our good (Romans 3:25-26, 8:28)
5. The end of faith: Revelation 15:3-4

V. Progression through the rest of the Bible

1. The Exodus: God uses great suffering to reveal his glory to the nations.
2. Naomi: God’s care to show his goodness even to those the world has forgotten.
3. Habakkuk: God reveals his grand purpose statement for all of history

“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.” (2:14)

VI. Conclusion