

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? [Give Email addresses of teachers]

Core Seminars—Suffering for God's Glory **Class 2: God's Revealed Purposes** **for Suffering**



How God can use suffering for our good and His glory

I. Introduction--The dangers of studying God's purposes in suffering

Danger 1: We might think we should always know his purposes (Is 55:8-9; Heb 13:8)

Danger 2: Perfect understanding would leave no room for faith (Heb. 11:6)

Danger 3: Normally, it's not helpful to hypothesize why others are suffering (Prov. 20:5)

II. Suffering is a Gift!?

- Phil 1:29 "granted...to suffer for him"
- Luke 9:23-25 "whoever loses his life for my sake will save it"

We suffer to take hold of something better. That's why it's a gift.

III. God's Revealed Purposes

1. To grow us in holiness
 - Ps 119:67 "...now I keep your word"
2. To build perseverance (endurance)
 - Rom 5:3 "...suffering produces endurance"
3. To grow us in maturity
 - Jas 1:2-3 "...so that you may be perfect and complete.."
4. To teach us His word
 - Ps 119:71 "that I might learn your statutes"
5. To help us encourage others
 - 2 Cor 1:3-4 "...so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction"
6. To wean us off self-reliance
 - 2 Cor 1:8b-9 "...to make us rely not on ourselves but on God..."
7. To strengthen our assurance
 - Heb 12:7-8 "God is treating you as sons"
 - 1 Pet 1:6-7 "...so that...your faith...may be found to result in praise...at the revelation of Jesus Christ."
8. To glorify God
 - Heb 11:24-26 Moses "...considered the reproach of Christ greater..."

IV. Conclusion

- a. Avoid the danger of *needing* to know.
- b. Praise God for how much he's already told us of how he uses suffering for good.