

## 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*

**How can we grow in this? A few suggestions:**

- Read God's word
  - Meditate on Revelation 4-5; 21-22
  - Meditate on Psalm 2 – the Lord laughs, scoffs at those seeking to derail his program – our future is certain.
  - Reflect on 1 Corinthians 15 – promise of a new body that works
- Pray
  - Pray for a heart of wisdom to number our days rightly (Ps. 90)
  - Examine your schedule – are you so busy that your focus is always on now, “today”?
  - Pray for a heart that is deeply satisfied in God (Psalm 73:25-26; Phi. 3:8; 2 Cor. 4:16-18)
- Good things to read:
  - Jonathan Edwards sermon “Heaven, a World of Love” or “Sinners in the hands of an angry God.”
- Sing Hymns that help you reflect on heaven:
  - It is well
  - Jerusalem my happy home
  - Lo He comes
  - How sweet and awful is the place
  - Hark I hear the harps eternal (singing this today)
  - There is a happy land
  - The sands of time are sinking
  - I will glory in my Redeemer
  - Victory in the Lamb (singing this today)

### **Week 4: God's Grief over Suffering**

*The empathy of a suffering God*

**Questions?** [Give Email addresses of teachers]

## **Core Seminars—Suffering for God's Glory**

### **Class 3: The Future of Suffering**



*The importance of heaven and hell in the suffering of a Christian*

## **I. Introduction**

*What difference does it make to know the end of something?*

*To suffer as a Christian means to suffer with the end of all things firmly fixed in your view.*

*Martin Luther: Two days on his calendar—“this day” and “that day”*

## **II. “That Day” and Hell**

(Matt. 8:12, 13:42, Mk. 9:43, 48; 2 Thes 1:9)

**Rev. 14:11** “And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night...”

**Exodus 34:7b** He will “by no means clear the guilty.”

### **III. “This Day” and Hell**

(Rom. 3:25-26, 3:10-11; Eph. 2:3)

**Rom. 12:19** “Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’”

### **IV. “That Day” and Heaven**

**Rev. 21:4** “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

### **V. “This Day” and Heaven**

**Philippians 3:20-21**: “But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.”

**Psalms 56:8**: “You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book?”

**2 Corinthians 4:17-18**, “For this light momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”

**Philippians 3:8** – “Indeed, I count everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ...”

### **VI. Conclusion – Cultivating an eternal perspective...**

Job 11:16, Psalm 17:15: Our hope is sure! (“wills” and “shalls”)