

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: The Secret of Contentment

Finding joy in Christ in any and every situation

Week 13: Panel Discussion

Questions? Email

Core Seminars—Suffering for God's Glory **Class 12: The Secret of Contentment**



Finding joy in Christ in any and every situation

Introduction

I. Contentment – *What it is...*

Philippians 4:10-12 “I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.”

1. *What it is –*

2. *What it is not –*

i. *It is not anti-ambition*

1. *Paul had ambition*

2. *Paul attacked selfish ambition*

ii. *It is not indifference to circumstances*

Acts 16:37-39 "...They have beaten us publicly, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens...Let them come themselves and take us out."

1 Corinthians 7:20-21 "Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called...But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity."

II. Contentment – How to find it...

1. *By experience*

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 "To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness..."

2. *By doing the work in front of you*

Philippians 2:12-13 "Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

3. *By listening to truth rather than emotions*

4. *By being truly satisfied in Christ*

Philippians 4:12-13 "...I have learned the secret of being content...I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

Philippians 3:8 "What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ."

John 7:37-38 "...If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."