

**A Biblical Perspective on Suffering:  
Wanting What You Get!  
1 Peter 2:21-25 (Part 1)**

**I. 1 Peter 2:18-25**

18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable. 19 For this *finds* favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this *finds* favor with God. 21 For you have been called for this purpose, (say what?) since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, 22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; 23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; 24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. 25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

**II. The Suffering Servant – How did Jesus Christ Suffer!**

**A. Jesus Suffered PHYSICAL PAIN—all the way to death**

Matthew 20:18-19 “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, 19 and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify Him, and on the third day He will be raised up.”

1. Jesus foretold His suffering – condemn, mock, scourge, and crucify Him
2. Condemned in a mock trial – the righteous judged by the unrighteous
3. Scourged with leather whips in which sharp pieces of bone and metal were embedded. These tore deep gashes into the flesh and even into the organs and bones of the victim. The customary ordeal consisted of forty lashes, administered with such intensity that it often required a second man to finish the beating. Because of the extreme shock and profuse bleeding, victims frequently died before the full number of lashes could be applied.
4. Mocked: (Matt. 27:26–30) The soldiers “took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole Roman cohort around Him. And they stripped Him, and put a scarlet robe on Him. And after weaving a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they kneeled down before Him and mocked Him, saying, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ And they spat on Him, and took the reed and began to beat Him on the head”
5. Crucified:
  - a) Carrying the heavy cross to Golgotha
  - b) Nailed to cross / his weight pulling on those nails.
  - c) Agonizing death on the cross.

### ***B. Jesus Suffered the pain of HUMILIATION (with the MOCKERY)***

1. Mockery seen above.
2. Humiliated with a mock crown / scepter / robe of royalty / homage / and
  - a) They scorned Him / spat on His face

### ***C. Jesus suffered the pain of disloyalty***

1. Peter: 3 times denied Him that night.
2. All the rest scattered – no one to stand with Him that night.
3. Judas: One of the Twelve, betrayed Him. [Ps. 41:9](#)
  - a) [Psalms, "Even my close friend, in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me"](#)
  - b) betrayed with a kiss.
  - c) Remember: Jesus loved equal to the rest such that they could not tell at the last supper who would betray Him! Such love!

### ***D. Jesus suffered the pain of rejection.***

1. Rejected by God's own chosen people, Israel - rejected His messiah-ship and treated Him instead as a criminal worthy of death.
  - a) He was the Stone the builders rejected. (1 Peter 2)
  - b) The Redeemer of Israel "came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him" (John 1:11).

### ***E. Jesus suffered the pain of unjust guilt and punishment.***

1. God "made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor. 5:21).
2. Jesus Christ Suffered the PENALTY OF ALL OF OUR SIN!

### ***F. Jesus suffered according to the plan of God.***

1. OT detailed on the things we saw above concerning Jesus' Suffering, right?
  - a) Through the psalmists,
    - (1) Messiah would be pierced (22:16),
    - (2) that He would cry out in pain (22:1),
    - (3) His betrayal for 30 pieces of silver (11:12),
    - (4) His desertion by His friends (13:7),
    - (5) His being pierced (12:10).
2. Peter: ["As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful search and inquiry, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow"](#) (1 Pet. 1:10–11).
3. Even Jesus - John 17:4 "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. =WORK OF THE CROSS
4. If there was a plan, then there must be a theology of suffering!...

### III. Theology of Suffering

#### A. Jesus Christ and Suffering:

##### What role did suffering play for Jesus Christ?

#### 1. Jesus Christ had to suffer to enter His glory

a) Luke 24:25-26

25 And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

26 "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?"

(1) Christ had to suffer to enter His glory

b) Heb 2:10

10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.

(1) Jesus was perfected through sufferings

(2) Perfected human side to be understanding High Priest, advocate, Mediator)

#### 2. Jesus Christ Suffered for DOING RIGHT

a) Heb 5:8-9

8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. 9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,

(1) JESUS CHRIST learned obedience from the things which He suffered

(2) OBEDIENCE to GOD = DOING RIGHT and SUFFERING FOR IT

b) He DIDN'T just suffer for SUFFERING'S SAKE – HE SUFFERED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR DOING GOOD!

1 Peter 2:20-21 ...when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this *finds* favor with God. 21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

(1) do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it – KEY!

#### 3. Jesus Christ Suffered the most ON THE CROSS

a) Where was His suffering MOST COMPLETELY REVEALED? **CROSS**

1 Peter 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

b) Jesus Christ suffered most at the cross, so Peter takes us right there! = 1 Peter 2:21-25

(1) When JESUS CHRIST died on the cross He was being executed as a criminal (which He wasn't)

(a) Guilty of nothing

(b) Most unjust execution ever

(2) So - Jesus Christ

- (a) Was in the will of God
- (b) Doing the work of God
- (c) Beloved of God
- (d) Perfectly righteous
- (e) Perfectly obedient in everything
- (f) YET SUFFERED ALL THE WAY TO DEATH

**4. Jesus Christ PATIENTLY ENDURED ALL SUFFERING by ENTRUSTING HIMSELF to GOD.**

- a) - ALL THE WAY TO DEATH
- b) Patiently endured<sup>1</sup> Peter 2:23a  
23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats,  
(1) Summarized in 2:20 – HE PATIENTLY ENDURED IT!
- c) Kept entrusting Himself to God v.23b  
but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously  
(1) = kept handing Himself over  
(2) I'll take the suffering – You take care of their sin

**5. BOTTOM LINE: THE PATH TO GLORY FOR Jesus CHRIST WAS THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (DOING RIGHT), SUFFERING FOR IT and ENDURING IT ALL by ENTRUSTING HIMSELF TO HIS FATHER. God used it both to**

- a) Prove His rejected
- b) Perfect His person

6. Next question: What role does suffering play for us

**B. Christians and Suffering**

**1. Christians experience both blessing and suffering**

- a) 1 Peter: List of SPIRITUAL Blessings  
1:3 ...His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,<sup>5</sup> who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time....<sup>7</sup> so that the proof of your faith, ... may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ...<sup>18</sup> knowing that you were ... redeemed with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ.<sup>20</sup> For He...appeared in these last times for the sake of you...<sup>2:5</sup> you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.<sup>6</sup> .... AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.” <sup>7</sup> This precious value, then, is for you who believe; ...<sup>9</sup> But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; <sup>10</sup> for you once were

NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

(1) God may also CHOOSE TO BLESS US PHYSICALLY – just don't list here...

b) 1 Peter: List of Sufferings

- (1) 1 Peter 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,
- (2) 1 Peter 2:12 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation.
- (3) 1 Peter 2:15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.
- (4) 1 Peter 2:18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.
- (5) 1 Peter 3-5
  - (a) Husbands disobedient to the word
  - (b) People who want to harm you
  - (c) Make you fear by their intimidation
  - (d) Suffer for the sake of righteousness
  - (e) Suffer for doing right
  - (f) Fiery ordeal
  - (g) =Share in the sufferings of Christ!

c) What does Peter say? – YOU'VE BEEN CALLED TO SUFFER – for DOING RIGHT (1 Peter 2:21)

d) Life of Christian Contradiction: Tremendous Blessing vs. Continual Suffering

2. Christians will suffer for doing right.

- a) Because 1 Peter 2:21 SAYS SO - 1 Peter 2:21 For you have been called for this purpose, =v.20 doing right and suffering for it,
- b) Because of who we are in Christ sets us at odds with world system we live in
  - (1) we are a problem here.
  - (2) Strangers in Satan's world.
  - (3) We have Christ in us – they see Christ in us – they hate Christ – can't get to Christ – they persecute us!
  - (4) See this biblically:
- c) When Paul says (Col 1:24) – TURN THERE
  - 24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions.
- d) "In my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body which is the church"
  - (1) = physical pain he endures at the hands of Christ-hating persecutors is the **result** of what he does to benefit and build the church.

- (2) He has just finished demonstrating that Christ alone is sufficient to reconcile us to God (1:20–23).
- (3) The New Testament is clear that Christ’s sufferings needed nothing added to them.
- (4) In Jesus’ death on the cross, the work of salvation was completed.
- (5) It was not his personality that offended and brought hostile injury to him, but his ministry for the Body of Christ.

e) in filling up that which is lacking in Christ’s afflictions

- (1) In what sense were Paul’s sufferings filling up that which is lacking in Christ’s afflictions?
- (2) Paul was receiving the persecution that was intended for Christ.
- (3) Jesus, ascended to heaven, out of their reach
- (4) But because His enemies had not filled up all the injuries they wanted to inflict on Him, they turned their hatred on those who preached the gospel.
- (5) It was in that sense that Paul filled up what was lacking in Christ’s afflictions.
- (6) In 2 Corinthians 1:5 he wrote that “the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance.”
- (7) He bore in his body the marks of the blows intended for Christ (Gal. 6:17; cf. 2 Cor. 11:23–28).

f) How are we to handle suffering / persecution? – attitudes and actions?

**3. Christians are to PATIENTLY ENDURE ALL SUFFERING by ENTRUSTING THEMSELVES to GOD.**

- a) What does 1 Peter 2:21 say?  
21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,
- b) 1 Peter 2:21-25 JESUS CHRIST presented as the model of attitude and action when unjustly suffering
  - (1) Look at Jesus Christ!
  - (2) run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith,
- c) We are to “...Follow in His footsteps...”
  - (1) So He is our perfect standard
    - (a) Complete nonsense to say that Christians who suffer are out of God’s will.
      - (i) RATHER – it is God’s will to righteouslessly.
      - (ii) Righteous do suffer for their godliness
        - (a) *During – can look to Jesus Christ as the standard of how they are to respond*
  - (2) BECAUSE HE...“leaving you an example” = writing under”– how children learn to write = Jesus Christ is the pattern that we trace and copy.

- (3) “for you to follow in His steps” = footprints, tracks (like line of prints)
- (4) Matt 10:21-23 – expect to be persecuted and suffer for righteousness sake.
- (a) V.24 Principle: A disciple is not above his teacher nor slave above master= if he suffers, you’ll suffer!
- (b) V.25 become as master!
- (5) John 13:16 same thing – what is characteristic of Me will be characteristic of you
- (6) Back to 1 Peter 2:21 we are “called for this purpose”
- (a) Purpose = Do right and Suffer for it (v.20)
- 1 Peter 3:14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, *you are blessed*. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, 1 Peter 3:17 For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.
- (7) AND – while we Suffer – WE FOLLOW our EXAMPLE – Jesus Christ...
- 1 Peter 2:23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;
- (a) Hand over to someone to keep
- (b) Continual – because suffering was continual
- (c) The righteousness of God is the great equalizer, the great avenger
- (i) He will make all things right
- (ii) He will deal with all parties for all time and all events.

#### 4. Suffering is used by God to perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

1 Peter 5:10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

- a) All CHARACTER WORDS (perfect = equip/ prepare confirm = impregnable, establish = foundation)

#### 5. Suffering brings believers closer to Christ.

- a) Paul wrote, “That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings” (Phil. 3:10).
- b) Suffering in the cause of Christ yields the fruit of better understanding of what Jesus went through in His suffering.
- c) Jesus said, “If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you” (John 15:18).
- d) Peter tells suffering Christians, “If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you” (1 Pet. 4:14).
- e) Suffering causes believers to sense the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives as He strengthens you supernaturally.

## 6. Christians will be eternally rewarded for suffering

### a) 1 Peter 1:6-7

6 ... even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, 7 so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

- (1) trials for proof of faith resulting in praise, honor, and glory.
- (2) God allows suffering because it the validation of your faith and results in praise, honor, and glory.

### b) When you suffer, you're not just enduring to learn patience, etc.

- (1) you don't need patience for eternity –
- (2) you are learning something that will enhance you ability to praise, honor and glorify God –

(a) directly related to your eternal capacity to glorify God.

(3) James – trials perfect

(4) Peter – suffering increases your function in glory

(5) 2 Cor 4:17-18 *For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

- (a) Suffering produces for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison
- (b) affects your functioning in eternity -capacity to glorify God
- (c) 4:18 when you go through a trial focus on its eternal impact / consequence – not on the trial.

### c) Eternal reward = capacity to glorify God.

- (1) Matt 20 – James / John's mother – request to sit on right and left.
- (2) Jesus – you don't know what you are asking – are you able to drink the cup?
- (3) If you want to be on my R&L hand you must be able to drink the cup of suffering I'm going to drink
- (4) Therefore, position in kingdom is related to suffering–Jesus suffered most =highest pos.

### d) In eternity sufferers will be praising God for earthly momentary affliction that has given them an eternal weight of glory.

## 7. Suffering is a cause for rejoicing.

### a) The early church considered it a privilege to suffer for the name of Christ.

*Acts 5:41, the apostles "went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name."*

### b) To the Philippians Paul wrote, "To you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake" (Phil. 1:29).

c) Col1:24 [Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake.](#)

8. Christian Life= Path to glory is the path of Righteousness and the path of Righteousness is the path of doing right, suffering unjustly and patiently enduring it.

#### IV. Conclusions about Suffering

- A. God used Suffering in perfecting of Jesus Christ and His Saints**
- B. Path to glory is the path of Righteousness and the path of Righteousness is the path of doing right, suffering unjustly and enduring it patiently**
- C. JUST MAKE SURE IT IS UNJUST SUFFERING!**
1. Marriage /Parenting /Job /Ministry /Friends/ Neighbors...
  2. You MAY have LONG HISTORY of SUFFERING – THAT IS DESERVED – CONSEQUENCE of SIN / CHASTENING of GOD!
- D. PATH TO GLORY is the path of Righteousness and the path of Righteousness is the path of doing right, suffering unjustly and enduring it patiently**
1. go to WORD for this week and test your suffering
  2. take to PRAYER – ask God to show you