

“Rejoicing in Suffering”

Phil. 3:1-11

Paul said if we desire to live godly in Christ Jesus we will be persecuted. Facing suffering in this world ought not be a surprise for us, but as believers, how should we view suffering?

1. The Big Concepts
 - a. Why is there suffering (Rev. 13:8; Eph. 1:4-6)?
 - b. God’s sovereignty over suffering (Isa. 46:9-10; Isa. 45:7; Rom. 9; Rom. 8:28)
 - c. Suffering with Christ and without Christ
 - d. Examples of ways God has used suffering
 - i. Job
 - ii. Joseph (Gen. 50:20)
 - iii. Christ (Luke 13)
 - iv. Early Church (Rom. 5:1-5)
2. Paul’s Example (Phil 3:1:4-10)
 - a. What Paul (Saul) viewed as gain
 - b. Christ changed Paul’s entire worldview
 - c. The “normal” Christian view of suffering
3. How then should we deal with suffering?
 - a. Glory to God
 - b. Repentance and a warning (Rev. 3:19)
 - c. Bear one another’s burdens (2 Cor. 1:3-5)