

A C T S

A BIBLICAL VIEW OF SUFFERING

Eric M. Hine Millersville Bible Church May 28, 2023

For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for Him.
Philippians 1:29

★ Starting Point: God is _____
(Deut. 32:4; Psalm 100:5; 107:1; Nahum 1:7; Matthew 7:11).

IMPORTANT TRUTHS ABOUT SUFFERING

1. Suffering must be _____ in light of _____ (2 Cor. 4:17-18; Romans 8:18; 1 Peter 5:10).
2. Suffering should not _____ US (Acts 14:22; 1 Peter 4:12-19).
3. Only two options: God is _____ over all things and all _____ produces ultimate _____ in believers, or it is _____ (Rom. 8:28; James 1:2-4,12; Rom. 5:3-5; 8:18).
4. Even though God is _____ over all things, People are morally _____ for their _____ (Gen. 50:19-20; Isaiah 10:5; Acts 4:27-28).
5. The Lord is _____ to us in our _____ (Psalm 34:18; Rom. 8:26-28; Heb. 4:16).

"Christ has borne the whole cross,
and His saints bear only splinters."
~ Samuel Rutherford ~

A FEW PURPOSES OF SUFFERING

1. To _____ us and prove the _____ of our faith. To make us more like Christ (1 Peter 1:7-9).
2. To _____ our _____ from this world (Colossians 3:2; Philippians 3:20).
3. To _____ US (Heb. 12:7-11; 1 Cor. 11:29-32).
4. To _____ others. Suffering is a part of our _____ (Acts 16:22-24, 35-40; Acts 4:20; 5:40-41).
5. To _____ people to _____, seeing their need for a Savior (Luke 13:1-5).

HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE?

- Fix our _____ on _____ (Heb. 12:1-3).
- Demonstrate the _____ of the _____ in every _____ (James 1:2-4; 1 Thess. 5:16; Acts 5:41; Luke 10:20).
- **REMEMBER:** The _____ is always _____ – Live your life before a watching world, demonstrating that God is always good!