



THE SUFFERING SERVANT

The way of suffering is in many ways alien to the 20th century believer. We have achieved high levels of personal comfort and developed buffers to isolate us from pain. The concept of suffering (or choosing to suffer) is unthinkable and in some ways, repulsive to our advanced thinking.

To bring this topic into Biblical focus, we need to examine carefully the basic teachings of Christ and the apostles.

What are the boundaries of suffering for the believer? 1 Corinthians 10:13

Who should receive blame for sufferings? John 9:1-3

To what extent can we as Christ's followers expect to suffer? 2 Corinthians 11:23-30

From this passage, what would you consider the big picture on suffering? 1 Peter 5:6-11

What can suffering do for us and should we expect it? Hebrews 12:4-13

What can be one of the chief outcomes of suffering? James 1:12

What should be our response to suffering? James 1:2-4 (See Acts 16:22-30)

What does affliction take from us and what can it replenish? 2 Corinthians 4:8-18

And remember...

The sufferings of this world are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed! - Romans 8:18

Our attitudes toward suffering.....

Expect it. Don't question God. Don't seek suffering for self-centered reasons - rather suffer for the Kingdom of God! Don't be crushed by it, even though you may be bruised. Accept it as a way of life for the believer (1 Peter 2:21; 4:1,2, 12-19)!

After all...

Isaiah 53:1-5; Zechariah 12:10

Luke 22:39-46

Matthew 27:46