

A Theology of Suffering

Introduction

- When the storm hits, what keeps you from being washed away?

Main Points: what are the blessings of suffering?

1. _____ – vs. 1-2

- We have peace with God because Jesus endured the cross
- *šālôm*, the fullness of right relationship that is implied in justification itself and of all the other blessings that flow from it.
- Isaiah 53.5
- We can endure suffering by keeping our eyes on Jesus who endured the cross and scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb.12.3)

2. _____ – vs. 2-4

- We “glory” in our sufferings
- Perseverance – a fighting spirit
- Character – metal alloys forged in fire – steel
- Hope – expectation / joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation
- We can endure suffering by seeing it as something that builds and refines our faith

3. _____ – v. 5

- We’re not alone. The Holy Spirit is our comforter, counsellor, and guide
- 1Corinthians 1.18
- John 14.26 -- “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Conclusion

- Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?

- Through Christ’s suffering we have _____ with God
- Suffering strengthens and refines our _____
- Suffering _____ and _____ our ability to perceive the love of God