

Christians and Suffering

This workshop considers what the Bible says about why Christians suffer. After reviewing relevant Scriptures, five reasons why Christians suffer is discussed, providing comments on how God helps in each category. In addition, the workshop addresses the ways in which suffering can be an opportunity for a Christian witness as well as pointing out why there are certain things Christians should refrain from saying to those who are suffering.

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- I. Introduction to the reality of Christian suffering
 - a. The Christian salvation does not protect Christians from suffering
 - i. Christ suffered and the servant is not greater than His Lord
 - ii. We do not judge our Lord's goodness by how often we are protected from suffering.
 - iii. The Lord's prayer instructs us to pray that we would be kept from the evil One.
 - b. Christian are protected from eternal suffering
 - i. John 3:36

II. Christians may suffer because of living righteously

- a. We are blessed
 - i. 2 Tim 3:12

 - ii. Matt 5:11

 - iii. I Pet 1: 6-7

 - iv. Ro 8:28

III. Christians may suffer because they live in a fallen world

- a. There is grace and comfort
 - i. 2 Cor 12:9-10
 - 1. Even here we can learn spiritually profitable lessons

 - ii. 2 Cor 1:2-5

IV. Christian may suffer because they are guilty of wrong doing

- a. Suffer the consequences and trust God
 - i. I Pet 4:15

 - ii. Ro 13: 1-3

- V. Christians may suffer because they are disciplined by the Lord
 - a. There can be the peaceable fruit of righteous in our lives if we do not fail the grace of God.
 - i. Heb 12:6-13

- ii. 1 Cor 11: 29-30

- VI. Christians may suffer because of the Adversary, the Devil
 - a. There is protection
 - i. I Pet 5: 8 –roaring lion

- ii. Job 1 and 2

- iii. Eph 6:18

- VII. Conclusion
 - a. In all suffering we can be a testimony of God's grace

