

**“Sharing in the Suffering of Christ”**

**Romans 8:16-18**

October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Pastor Nick Neves

Though it may be quite unlikely that you or I will be faced with a present danger quite like Jim Elliot or Paul the Apostle faced, we who trust in Jesus should know the nature of our spiritual adoption and the inherent risks of walking in the Spirit instead of in the flesh.

**Romans 8:16-18** – <sup>16</sup> *The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,* <sup>17</sup> *and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.* <sup>18</sup> *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*

Suffering along with our Savior is not a matter of contributing something to the purification of our souls. It is the inevitable \_\_\_\_\_ of being purified by Christ and yet remaining in a fallen world that rages against Him.

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**Remember:** Christians are not the *only* ones who suffer, and not all suffering should be properly understood as CHRISTIAN suffering.

- All men suffer due to lack of \_\_\_\_\_ (foolishness)
- All men suffer due to our \_\_\_\_\_
- All men suffer due to \_\_\_\_\_ sin
- All men suffer due to the sins of \_\_\_\_\_
- All men suffer because earth is not \_\_\_\_\_

**But Paul is talking about suffering WITH Jesus.**

That means suffering in particular ways and suffering specifically because we are united to Him in faith. (See Acts 9:3-4, Gal. 2:20, Rom. 6:5-8, Phil. 3:7-11 and Phil. 1:27-30)

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**Suffering is the \_\_\_\_\_ path that a believer must travel on their way to their eternal home.** (Paul’s example in Acts 14)

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**Encouragements to Help Us through Suffering:**

1. REMEMBER: Jesus already \_\_\_\_\_ for you. (1 Peter 3:18)
  
2. If you are in Christ, you will never suffer what you \_\_\_\_\_ to suffer. (Romans 5:8)
  
3. Your suffering cannot be \_\_\_\_\_. (Romans 8:28)
  
4. Your suffering cannot compare to the \_\_\_\_\_ you have, and will receive (Ephesians 1:3-4)
  
5. Because your suffering grows you and brings you closer to your Savior, you are better off for it.