

# Suffering Well

**Philippians 1:21-30** For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! <sup>23</sup>I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; <sup>24</sup>but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

<sup>25</sup>Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup>so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.

<sup>27</sup>Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup>without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved — and that by God. <sup>29</sup>For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, <sup>30</sup>since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have. (NIV 84)

## How can we suffer well?

### Understand that suffering is \_\_\_\_\_.

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. NIV84

1 Peter 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. NIV84

1 Peter 5:10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. NIV84

Lamentations 3:32 Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. NIV84

### Believe that suffering \_\_\_\_\_.

Philippians 1:29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, NIV84

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. NIV84

James 1:2-4 Consider it \_\_\_\_\_, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup>because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. <sup>4</sup>Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. NIV84

James 1:2-3 When all kinds of trials and temptations crowd into your lives my brothers, don't resent them as intruders, but \_\_\_\_\_ them as \_\_\_\_\_!

<sup>3</sup>Realize that they come to test your faith and to produce in you the quality of endurance. (Phillips)

Example of good that came from suffering in this passage:

**Philippians 1:12-30** Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. <sup>13</sup>As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. <sup>14</sup>Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly...<sup>18</sup>...from false motives or true, Christ is preached...what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance...<sup>22</sup>If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me...<sup>25</sup>Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup>so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me...<sup>28</sup>without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved — and that by God....

## **Believe that suffering is \_\_\_\_\_.**

Jesus said that we would have trouble in this world.

John 15:20 Remember the words I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’

If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also NIV84

John 16:33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” NIV84

Our theme verse (Philippians 3:10) talks about the “fellowship of his sufferings.”

Philippians 3:10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, NIV84

## **Live \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ of suffering.**

Philippians 1:27a Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. NIV84

Ephesians 4:1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. NIV84

Colossians 1:10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, NIV84

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, <sup>12</sup>encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. NIV84

2 Thessalonians 1:5 All this is evidence that God’s judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. NIV84

2 Thessalonians 1:11 With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. NIV84