

The Armour for Christians Living With Suffering

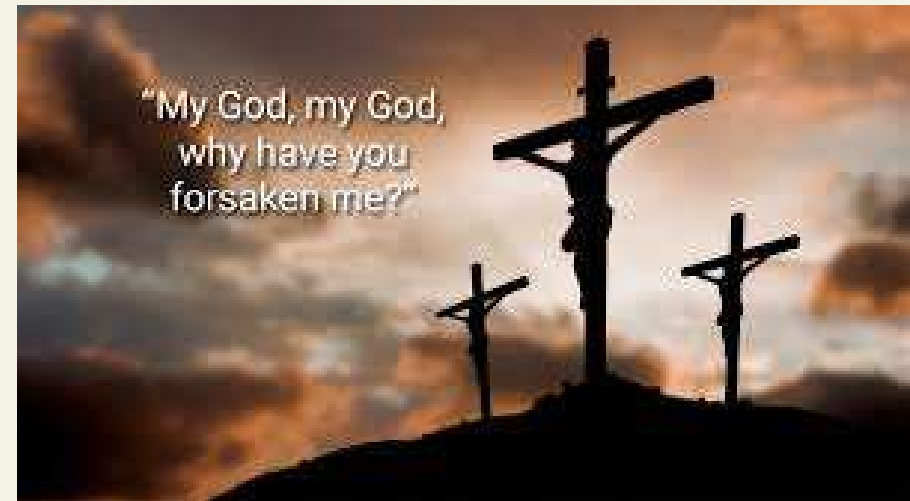
- *Suffering of Peter*
- *“I thought I knew suffering....”*



Definition of Suffering

- *Suffering is the experience of unpleasantness or aversion to a real or perceived threat or harm*

Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body....



- *Made in the image of God*
 - *Body, soul, spirit*
 - *Heart*
 - *Mind, conscience*
 - *Flesh, bones*
 - *Map Brain knowledge today map with biblical references (not included)*

Foundations for our Application Today

Dimensions of Suffering

Duration

Severity

Response Dynamics

Symptomatic Recognition

Dimensions of Suffering

Dimensions of Suffering	
<i>Duration</i>	Short to long
	Occasional to recurring to constant
<i>Severity</i>	Mild to intense to intolerable...
<i>Response Dynamics</i>	Light to severe
	Avoidable to unavoidable
	Little or great in consequence
<i>Valuation</i>	Self caused or caused by others
	Chosen or unwanted
	Deserved or not
	Acceptable or not

Dimensions of Suffering

Symptomatic recognition: Real or Perceived					
Physical	Mental	Societal	Spiritual		
Pain	Grief	Political unrest	Individual		
Illness	Hatred	Persecution		Rejection of God	
Disability	Frustration	Governance dysfunction		Sinful behaviour	
Hunger	Anxiety	War		Guilt	
Poverty	Phobias			Significance	
Abuse	Self worth			Forgiveness	
Exposure	Sociological/relational			Appropriation	
Death	Attachment			Works and grace	
	Heartbreak			Serving the Lord	
	Loneliness		Collective		
	Interpersonal breakdowns			Doctrinal	
	Marital dysfunction			Theological	
				Leadership	
				Identity	

Dimensions of God's Suffering

- Prior to creation

- "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will."

Eph 1:4-5

- Old Testament

- "The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled."

Gen 6:5,6

Dimensions of God's Suffering

• Old Testament

- *"How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboyim? My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused."*
- *Woe to the city of oppressors, rebellious and defiled! She obeys no-one, she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the LORD, she does not draw near to her God. Her officials are roaring lions, her rulers are evening wolves, who leave nothing for the morning.*

Hosea 1:8

Zeph 3:1

Dimensions of God's Suffering

• Old Testament

- *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?.....For he has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.*
- *Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.*
- *After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light [of life] and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.*
- *Therefore I will give him a portion among the great..*

*Psalm
22:1, 24*

*Isaiah
53:10*

Dimensions of God's Suffering

• New Testament

- Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the **Spirit of Christ** in them was pointing when He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.
- The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

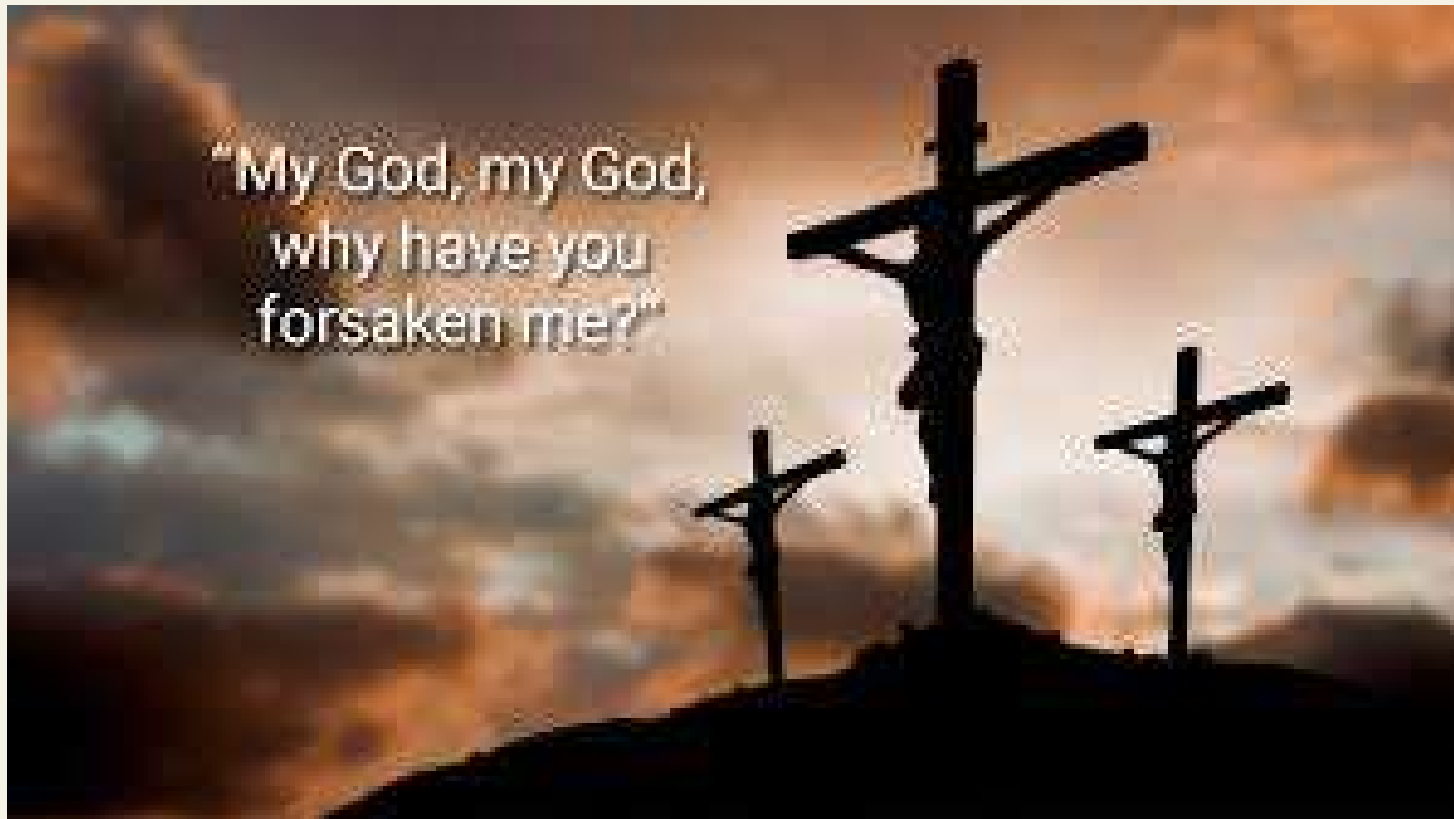
1Peter 1:10

Colossians
1:15-17

Dimensions of God's Suffering in His Son Jesus

- **New Testament**

- *Jesus the Eternal Son of God suffering at Calvary*



Psalm 22

John 3:16

Mt 27:46

Arm Yourself as Jesus in His Suffering!

- Have the same attitude as Jesus

Ch 4:1-6

Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do — living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to men in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.

Arm Yourself as Jesus in His Suffering!

• Have the same attitude as Jesus

Arm yourself

- *As Jesus suffered in His body*
 - *Died for sin via His suffering*
 - *His suffering on the cross at the hands of His own people who rejected Him*
 - *His suffering as the Son of God who came as the Lamb of God*
 - *Done with sin: one time offering and salvation work completed*
 - *Our exemplar*
 - *Our sin was done away with, now His*
 - *By remembering the former way of life that brought suffering in our body*
 - *The consequences of former way of life IN THE PAST*
 - *The abuse and suffering heaped upon us by our choice to live in Christ is to be endured*
 - *Living in the Spirit*
 - *Jesus brought the gospel to all men*
 - *Those dead in their Spirit need the Gospel of Christ*

Ch 4:1-6

Arm Yourself as Jesus in His Suffering!

- Have the same attitude as Jesus

- *April 8 was the first Sunday after Easter. So less than twenty-four hours before he left this world, Dietrich Bonhoeffer performed the offices of a pastor. In the bright schoolroom that was their cell, he held a small service. He prayed and read the verses for that day: Isaiah 53:5 ("With his stripes we are healed") and 1 Peter 1:3 ("Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" RSV). He then explained these verses to everyone. Best recalled that Bonhoeffer "spoke to us in a manner which reached the hearts of all, finding just the right words to express the spirit of our imprisonment and the thoughts and resolutions which it had brought."*
- *The other prisoners in the schoolhouse hoped that they might be able to get Bonhoeffer to hold a service for them as well. But there would not be any time for this. Best described what happened:*
 - *He had hardly finished his last prayer when the door opened and two evil-looking men in civilian clothes came in and said:*
 - *"Prisoner Bonhoeffer. Get ready to come with us." Those words "Come with us"—for all prisoners they had come to mean one thing only—the scaffold.*
 - *We bade him good-bye—he drew me aside—"This is the end," he said. "For me the beginning of life."*



Arm Yourself as Jesus in His Suffering!

Ch 4:7-11

- Live in Anticipation of the Lord's Return

The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Arm Yourself as Jesus in His Suffering!

Ch 4:7-11

- *Live in Anticipation of the Lord's Return*
 - *by being clear minded and self controlled*
 - *by loving each other as foundational to all else*
 - *by offering hospitality without grumbling*
 - *by using the spiritual gift that you have received to serve*
 - *by bringing God the praise through Jesus*

Arm Yourself as Jesus in His Suffering!

Ch 4:12-19

- Continue to do good

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

Arm Yourself as Jesus in His Suffering!

Ch 4:12-19

- Continue to do good
- Don't be surprised
 - but rejoice
 - We will abound with joy
 - » Abundant joy when His glory is revealed
 - We are blessed
 - » The Spirit rests on us
 - but do not be ashamed but praise
- Judge ourselves
 - That our suffering is according to God's will
 - All are under judgment and have the offer of the Gospel
 - We are not to make it harder for those who could hear and obey

Suffering as a Christian?

- *Have the same attitude as Jesus*
 - *Go through this in remembrance of Me*
 - *Arm yourself with the attitude of Jesus*
 - *Continue to do good*
 - *Judge ourselves, lest we too be judged*
 - *Live in our precious Hope now and for eternity!*