

WHY DO THE GODLY SUFFER?

OUTLINE

I. TYPES OF SUFFERING

- A. There is suffering because of Adam's original sin. (Luke 13:1-5)
- B. Suffering because of personal sin. James 4:17
- C. Suffering because Satan attempts to make us backslide. Matt. 4:1-11
- D. Suffering because of purification purposes by God. Hebrews 5:8
- E. Suffering for the sole purpose of glorifying God. John 9:1-13 and 11:4

II. ATTITUDES IN SUFFERING

- A. Suffering to glorify God is a definite part of our calling and service for the Master.
- B. It is a Christian's responsibility to elevate all suffering to the 5th level-- of glorifying God.
- C. Glorifying is done through verbal praise to God, amidst the suffering. Hebrews 13:15
- D. This mean, more suffering shows up more pure godliness, or holiness.
- E. This makes suffering thus a positive experience, not a negative or a fearful one.

III. SUFFERING IS NON-OPTIONAL

- A. Christ gave us definite commands as to what our conduct should be under persecution/suffering. (John 15:20, Matt 5:10-12 & 44-48, Luke 6:22-23, Rom 12:14)
 - 1. *Rejoice.*
 - 2. *Bless.*
 - 3. *Love.*
 - 4. *Pray.*
 - 5. *Be perfect.*
- B. Personal examples:
 - 1. *Christ set a personal example.*
 - 2. *The disciples set a personal example.*
 - 3. *Paul set a personal example.*
- C. Suffering as a measuring stick of effectiveness (2 Tim 3:12, 1 Thessalonians 2:13-15)
- D. God considers suffering as a special treat. (Philippians 1:29)

CONCLUSION

- A. We need to learn to ask, "Why not?" "Why not me?" Luke 24:25-26
- B. Face the problem, "We want an easy life."
- C. Now God wants us to focus on the final result. Rev 7:9-17, Rev 6:9, Matt 5:12

PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT