

The Following Message is Message #091B

HOW GOD USES SUFFERING

Text: I Peter 5:10

Introduction

I. Christian life is often one that is filled with Paradoxes

A Paradox is something that against conventional wisdom-but is true-For instance

1. The World say you can tell how great someone is by the number of people that serve them

Jesus said just the opposite was true

Mark 10:44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest shall be servant of all.

2. The World says get even with those that have wronged you

Jesus said we were to do the opposite

Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

3. Maybe the greatest paradox is summed up in one statement by Jesus

Matthew 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

II. One of these great Paradoxes is drawn out in our text

Here we read of two things that are not seemingly reconcilable

1. The God of All Grace

Think of "Grace" as encapsulating all the wondrous attributes of God

Think of His mercy-compassion-gentleness-goodness-all wrapped up in word

2. After you suffer a while

This seems to be out of place

IF HE IS THE GOD OF ALL GRACE-WHY DOES HE ALLOW SUFFERING

This probably been excuse many given for not embracing the Gospel

III. Atheists-eventually get to the problem of pain

They observe the suffering in the world and they come up with some erroneous ideas

1. God must not exist because of all the suffering

2. God must not care about His Creation

3. God must not be strong enough to do anything about it

4. God must not be good enough to do anything about it

III. As Christians there much in area we can understand

When we look at the Word of God and we know REASON there is suffering

IT CAN BE SUMMARIZED IN ONE WORD-SIN

WE KNOW THAT ALL SUFFERING IS ROOTED IN SIN

1. My own Personal Sin

2. Sin of Others

3. Fact we live in a sin cursed world

IV. Understand as a child of god you are not immune to it

NIEVE TO THINK GOD'S RESPONSIBILITY KEEP ALL SUFFERING AWAY

Matter of fact there are some unique ways a child of God suffers

1Peter 4:15, 16 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

GOD NEVER TRIED TO HIDE THAT FACT

Act 9:16 For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

V. Understand something that is very important

GOD HAS A DESIGN FOR SUFFERING

In the mind of most suffering is never a good thing

YET GOD IS EVEN ABLE TO WORK IN/THROUGH THE DAREST OF TIMES

We see this in our text that is set before us

Want to look at this verse and consider

How God Uses Suffering

We will not say everything there is to say about suffering in this message, But I hope we can understand how God can use this as a tool.

There will be nothing fancy in our outline. We will just use words that Peter Gives in our text.

This first thing Peter says suffering can do is to make us:

I. Perfect

A. This does not carry the idea of Salvation

There are some that think going through hell on earth makes them fit for heaven.

Suffering is not redemptive in the sense it makes us qualified for heaven.

ONLY WHAT JESUS HAS DONE MAKES US FIT FOR HEAVEN

Colossians 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

Colossians 1:21, 22 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblamable and unreprouvable in his sight:

Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.

JESUS HAS JUSTIFIED ME NOW I HAVE A PERFECT STANDING BEFORE GOD

B. What does this perfect mean

Carries with it the idea of being mature and complete

Philippians 3:12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

III. Children in School-Grade Level Testing

GOD HAS A GREATER GOAL-MAKING US LIKE CHRIST

Ephesians 4:11-13 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

Suffering a tool that God can use to bring this about

C. Various we could draw to illustrate this

1. Refining Gold

Malachi 3:3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

THE GOLD MIGHT COMPLAIN-REFINER NOT SATISFIED UNTILL HE CAN SEE HIMSELF REFINED

2. Sculptor

Imagine the stone would complain about the hammer and the chisel, Yet sculptor has a purpose for them all

GOD WANTS TO BRING US TO A PLACE OF TOTAL SURRENDER

II. Stablish

A. Another purpose given to us

The Greek word means "to set fast; to fix firmly; to render immovable

IDEA OF MAKING US STEADY AND FOCUSED

There is an Illustration given to us in life of Jesus

Luke 9:51 And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,

Had a purpose that he was working toward nothing could move him from that course

Luke 13:31 The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee. And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected. Nevertheless I must walk today, and tomorrow, and the day following: for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem.

B. Suffering reveal those things that are important

III. Hurricane-designer clothes/shoes

When you suffer priorities have a tendency to get right in your life

Remember the refiner skimming away all garbage

C. Causes us to put anchor deep

III. Tree with shallow roots-not survive storm

Colossians 2:7 Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

James 5:8 Be ye also patient; establish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

2Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall establish you, and keep you from evil.

III. Strengthen

A. Ever seen a weight trainer

Uses resistance to help him build strength

Times that is a hurtful thing-grunts and groans-NO PAIN NO GAIN

Knows if he is going to be strong some things he will have to endure

B. Same thing is true spiritually speaking

Suffering is a tool God can use to make us strong in the faith

NOT ALWAYS A PLEASANT THING

Many try to find shortcuts-III. Steroids

Some try to take shortcuts spiritually speaking-not work

James 1:3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

III. Man ask preacher to pray for patience-Preacher pray for trouble

THIS WHAT GOD USES TO BRING THESE THINGS IN OUR LIFE

Often time when others are suffering we are quick to quote scripture the scripture:

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

When it is us we want the problem solved immediately

Have to ask ourselves a simple question-CAN GOD BE TRUSTED IN MY SUFFERING?

Zechariah 10:12 And I will strengthen them in the LORD; and they shall walk up and down in his name, saith the LORD.

Ephesians 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

IV. Settle

A. Meaning of this last work

ESTABLISH YOU ON A FIRM FOUNDATION-III. House creaking-popping

Make you firm-able to withstand other storms that come

B. Jesus gives us an example of this in the scriptures

Matthew 7:24-27 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not; for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

How we need to be firm upon our foundation

Ephesians 3:17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

C. One way has a calming effect

When over-learn from it-grow-not panic next go around

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

1Peter 1:6, 7 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

What amazing thing to be able to rejoice in face of trials

Remember paradoxes mentioned earlier

WE CAN DO THIS BECAUSE OF WORK OF GOD IN OUR LIFE

HE IS THE GOD OF "ALL GRACE" HE WILL HAVE SUFFICIENT GRACE FOR US TO ENDURE THE SUFFERING THAT COMES OUR WAY

2Corinthians 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

One last thing mention about suffering

SUFFERING NEVER POINTLESS JESUS TOOK PART IN IT

1Peter 5:1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

IN HIS SUFFERING YOU CAN FIND SALVATION