

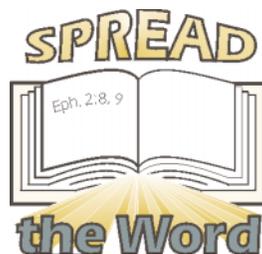
20 REASONS WHY CHRISTIANS SUFFER!

by

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Divine Viewpoint

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When I first became a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, I watched a young lady, who was a Christian, suffer from cancer and the question came to me, "Why do Christians suffer?" We have all heard or said, "Why did God let this happen to me?" For those of you who have this question, here are 20 passages for why Christians suffer.

1. Christians suffer when they are on a frantic search for happiness in the details of life, apart from the Lord Jesus Christ. The whole book of Ecclesiastes is the story of Solomon pursuing the details of life apart from the Lord and the result was "vanity, vanity, all is vanity and a vexation of spirit."
2. Christians suffer from the guilt reaction to sin and the suppression of the sin in the self-consciousness of the soul.

1 Tim 1:5-6, "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned. From which some having swerved have turned aside into vain janglings."

Verses 19-20, "Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme."

1 Tim 3:9, "Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience."

3. Suffering from calluses on the soul because of negative volition to the Word of God.

Eph 4:17-19, "This I say therefore and testify in the Lord that you henceforth walk not as other gentiles walk in the vanity of their mind. Having the understanding darkened being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them because of the blindness of their heart. Who being past feeling, have

given themselves over unto lasciviousness to work all uncleanness with greediness."

4. Suffering from the failure to isolate sin.

Heb 12:15, "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the Grace of God lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled."

This is the principle of chain sinning, adding one sin to another.

5. Suffering from the rejection of authority.

Judges 19-21, Jer 7, Prov 30.

Matt 7:29 - 8:13, "For He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. When He was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, if Thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth His hand, and touched Him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them. And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto Him a centurion, beseeching Him, And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that Thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the Word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard it, He marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abra-

ham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour."

6. Suffering from rejecting the Right-Man or the Right-Woman.

Ezek 16

Ezek 23

7. Christians suffer because of interrelationship with those who suffer.

1 Chron 21

1 Cor 12:26, *"And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it."*

Rom 14:7, *"For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself."*

8. Christians suffer from Divine Discipline.

Heb 12:6, *"For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth."*

9. Suffering because of rejecting the Word of God and therefore rejecting the Lord as the Right-Man.

Jer 13.

10. Suffering directly related to the angelic conflict.

1 Pet 1:12, *"Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the Gospel unto you with the Holy Spirit sent down from Heaven; which things the angels desire to look into."*

1 Pet 3:17, *"For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing."*

Eph 3:9-13, *"And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the Church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In Whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him. Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory."*

11. Suffering in order to demonstrate the power and the Grace of God.

2 Cor 12:1-10, *"It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third Heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he was caught up into Paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities. For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the Truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which He seeth me to be, or that He heareth of me. And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And He said unto me, My Grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in*

infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

12. Suffering to learn the value of the Word of God.

Psa 119, especially verses 67, 68, and 71.

Psalm 119:67-68, "*Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept Thy Word. Thou art good, and doest good; teach me Thy statutes.*"

Psalm 119:71, "*It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.*"

13. Suffering from the rapid and accelerated growth in the Word.

James 1:1-6. "*James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting. My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.*"

14. Suffering from natural disaster.

Isa 59:15-21, "*Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him that there was no judgment. And He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore His arm brought salvation unto him; and His righteousness, it sustained him. For He put on righteousness as a breast-plate, and an helmet of salvation upon His head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke. According to their deeds, accordingly He will repay, fury to His adversaries, recompence to*

His enemies; to the islands He will repay recompence. So shall they fear the Name of the LORD from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him. And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD. As for Me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My Spirit that is upon thee, and My Words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever."

15. Suffering from the temporary loss of norms and standards.

Jer 2:24-25, "*A wild ass used to the wilderness, that snuffeth up the wind at her pleasure; in her occasion who can turn her away? all they that seek her will not weary themselves; in her month they shall find her. Withhold thy foot from being unshod, and thy throat from thirst: but thou saidst, There is no hope: no; for I have loved strangers, and after them will I go."*

16. Suffering from war.

Deut 21, 24,

Matt 24:6-7, "*And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places."*

17. Suffering from the emotions of the soul being short circuited in times of tragedy.

John 20:9-18, "*For as yet they knew not the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again unto their own home. But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one*

at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they say unto her, Woman, why weepst thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him. And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepst thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing Him to be the gardener, saith unto Him, Sir, if thou have borne Him hence, tell me where thou hast laid Him, and I will take Him away. Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto Him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. Jesus saith unto her, Touch Me not; for I am not yet ascended to My Father: but go to My brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto My Father, and your Father; and to My God, and your God. Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things unto her."

18. Suffering while in the process of dying.

Job 5:20, "In famine He shall redeem thee from death: and in war from the power of the sword."

19. Suffering because of taking the Lord's table, communion, when you are out of fellowship, taking the Lord's table unworthily.

1 Cor 11:29-31, "For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily eateth and drinketh damnation to himself not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves we would not be judged."

There is an additional sort of suffering but this is only for a very few.

20. Suffering because of a special spiritual gift, like the Apostle Paul. Paul suffered in many passages.

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