

## Suffering for the Glory of God

### **Week 1: The Problem of Suffering and the Bible's Answer**

*The wisdom of God and a call to trust*

### **Week 2: God's Revealed Purposes for Suffering**

*How God can use suffering for our good and His glory*

### **Week 3: The Future of Suffering**

*The importance of heaven and hell for a suffering Christian*

### **Week 4: God's Grief over Suffering**

*The empathy of a suffering God*

### **Week 5: Unbiblical Reactions to Suffering**

*Temptations to find hope in what is passing away*

### **Week 6: Fighting for faith, Part 1**

*Struggling for faith in God's sovereignty and goodness*

### **Week 7: Fighting for faith, Part 2**

*Helping others fight for faith in the local church*

### **Week 8: Sharing Their Burdens**

*A biblical perspective on the relief of physical suffering*

### **Week 9: Suffering as Witness**

*Making the most of your suffering for the glory of God*

### **Week 10: Applying the Framework**

*Suffering through illness*

### **Week 11: Suffering for the gospel**

*Biblical wisdom for the persecuted*

### **Week 12: The Secret of Contentment**

*Finding joy in Christ in any and every situation*

### **Week 13: Panel Discussion**

**Questions?** Email

## **Core Seminars—Suffering for God's Glory**

### **Class 11: Suffering for the Gospel**



---

*Biblical Wisdom for the Persecuted*

### **Introduction**

#### **I. What is Persecution?**

1. Matthew 5:11 “Blessed are you when people insult you...because of me.”
2. John 15:19 “...I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.”
3. 1 Peter 4:3-4 “...they heap abuse on you.”
4. Luke 21:12 “...they will deliver you to synagogues and prisons...”
5. Acts 22:4 “I persecuted the followers of the Way to their death...”

## II. Why is it important for us to persevere?

*A review of God's revealed purposes for suffering...*

1. Because it's a normal part of following Jesus.

**2 Tim. 3:12** “Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”

**Gal. 5:11** “...the offense of the cross.”

**Mark 8:34-38** “Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.”

2. To glorify God

**Colossians 1:24** “Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.”

## III. How can I be faithful in persecution

1. How does this suffering challenge my view of who God is?
2. What am I tempted to trust in other than God?
3. How can I fight for faith?

4. How can I conduct myself so that God is glorified in my life through this difficult time?

- Rejoice knowing your reward is great.

**John 13:3-4** “Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.”

**Philippians 2:12** “Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—“

- Rejoice in a greater assurance

**1 Peter 1:6-7** “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

- Rejoice In knowing how Christ has loved you.

**Romans 8:31-32** “What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”

## IV. Conclusion