

Suffering for Christ's Church

Text: Colossians 1:24 (NAS)

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions.

Sufferings:

Strong's Concordance: G3804 pathema (path'-ay-mah)

Something undergone, that is hardship or pain; physically, subjectively as an emotion or an influence.

Context: Colossians 1:12-24 (NAS)

¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. ¹³ For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, ²⁰ and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven. ²¹ And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds, ²² yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—

²³ if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister. ²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions.

Suffering, Foundation of the Church:

1. Jesus Suffered His Part
2. Called to Suffer Your Part
3. Your Suffering Maintains Your Salvation

Point #1: Jesus Suffered His Part

- I Peter 4:1 (AMP)
- Psalms 19:8 (KJV)

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I Peter 4:1 (AMP)

Therefore, since Christ suffered in the flesh *and died for us*, arm yourselves *like warriors* with the same purpose *being willing to suffer for doing what is right and pleasing God*, because whoever has suffered in the flesh *being like-minded with Christ* is done with *intentional sin having stopped pleasing the world*,

Psalms 19:8 (KJV)

The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

Point #2: Called to Suffer Your Part

- Philippians 1:29 (KJV)
- Romans 8:16-18 (KJV)

Philippians 1:29 (KJV)

For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

Romans 8:16-18 (KJV)

¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

¹⁷ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. ¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Point #3: Your Suffering Maintains Your Salvation

- I Peter 5:10 (NLT)
- II Timothy 2:12 (KJV)

I Peter 5:10 (NLT)

In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.

II Timothy 2:12 (KJV)

If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION OF FAITH:

1. **HEAR the GOSPEL ~ Romans 10:17**
2. **BELIEVE ~ Hebrews 11:6**
3. **REPENT ~ Luke 13:3**
4. **CONFESS ~ Matthew 10:32-33**
5. **BE BAPTIZED ~ Acts 22:16**
6. **BE FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH ~ Revelation 2:10**