

June 10, 2018

## **BACK TO THE BASICS: SUFFERING OTHER THAN PERSECUTION**

### **1. We suffer as Christians**

- We live in a sin-cursed world - Romans 8:22-23
- We possess a sinful nature - Romans 7:7-25
- We are hated by Satan and the world - 1 Peter 5:8-9
- We suffer and rejoice with other believers –  
1 Corinthians 12:26

### **2. Two categories**

**Disciplinary** - Hebrews 12:4-11

**Non-disciplinary**

- Don't assume sin is the problem - John 9
- Don't assume it is a lack of faith
- Don't assume the health, wealth, prosperity lie -  
1 Timothy 6:6-10
- Don't assume it is a matter of planting a seed

### **3. Biblical principles to live by when facing suffering**

- 1) God wants you to trust him - Proverbs 3:5-6

- 2) God is at work in your life - Romans 8:28-29
- 3) God is faithful - 1 Corinthians 10:13
- 4) God understands you and your crisis – Hebrews 4:15
- 5) God wants you to approach him with confidence -  
Hebrews 4:16
- 6) God wants you to persevere - Hebrews 11:35-38

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. What can you learn from the difficulties which Paul considers in regard to his own life? Romans 7:7-25  
How might this help you understand your own struggles?
2. Relate 1 Timothy 6:6-10 to the health, wealth, and prosperity gospel. Do you experience any frustrations in your life because of a lack of contentment with the provisions of the Lord? How will you deal with them?
3. How can you relate Proverbs 3:5-6 with any situations you are facing in your life? How might you encourage others to trust in the Lord?
4. What comfort can you gain from the discussion in 1 Corinthians 10:13?
5. Can you give any examples from your own life how God's grace has been sufficient for you? 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 How might you use these verses to provide encouragement to others who are suffering?