

Premise of Our Meditation on Subject:

Deuteronomy 29:29

The **secret things** belong to the LORD our God, but **those things which are revealed belong to us** and to our children forever, that we may **do** all the words of this law.

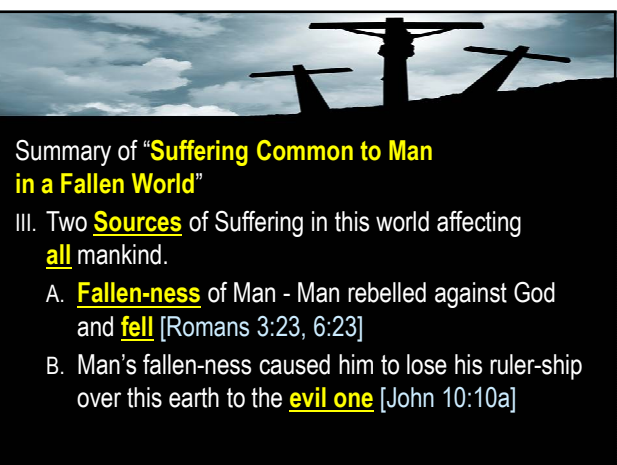
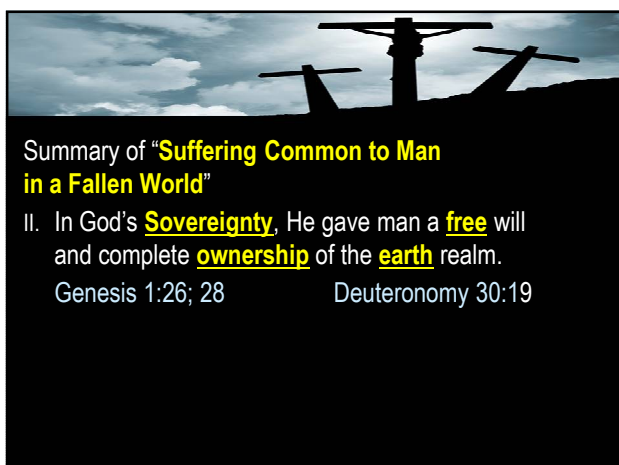
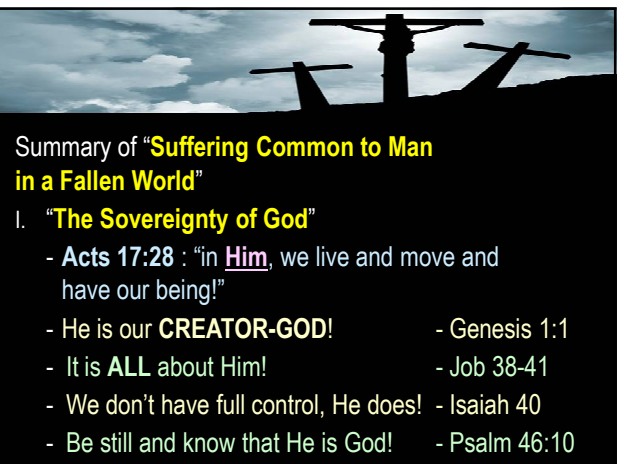
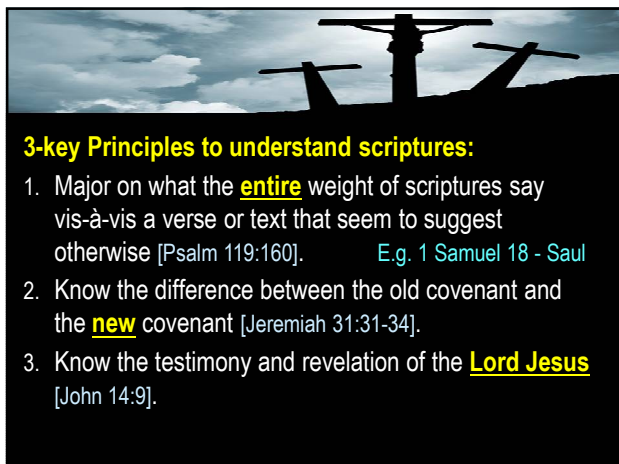
1 Corinthians 13:12


For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face.

Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as

I also am known.

Psalm 103:7 - know His ways!






Summary of **"Suffering Common to Man in a Fallen World"**

IV. Suffering in this Fallen World.

A. This suffering affects **both** the believer and the pre-believer in this fallen world [John 16:33]



Summary of **"Suffering Common to Man in a Fallen World"**

IV. Suffering in this Fallen World.

B. Therefore when someone dies from a **sickness** or an **earthquake**, it is due to the fallen-ness of man in a fallen world.

God is **NOT** the **direct** source of sickness or all the evil, accidents, wickedness and calamities on the earth.




IV. Suffering in this Fallen World.

C. **Avoid** saying: "God allows". [permits - cause it]

D. Rather say "God is **Sovereign**". This means:


- I don't know but God knows.
- I don't fully understand my suffering but God does.
- I seem to lose control but God is in charge as I connect and commit my situation to Him [Romans 8:28].
- I don't fully know why but God is with me!



Summary of **"Suffering Common to Man in a Fallen World"**

IV. Suffering in this Fallen World.

E. Understand clearly the difference between the direct **judgment** of God and the **reaping** of consequences of man's actions.




Summary of **"Suffering Common to Man in a Fallen World"**

IV. Suffering in this world.

F. At the individual level, man will **reap** what he sows according to the respective laws of life.

G. In these last days, there will be an **increase** of earthquakes, wars, famines and pestilences and lawlessness according to the scriptures [Matthew 24:8]



Summary of **"Suffering Common to Man in a Fallen World"**

V. The spiritual world cannot intervene in the natural world unless there is a **connection**. [doorway]

VI. God is good and is **consistently** good all the time

Tension between **Sovereignty** and **Nature** of God.

All Power but **Always** Good, Just and Righteous!

Bottom Line: There is always **HOPE** in the good God!

If you are suffering,
do you know **WHY**?

Suffering per se is NOT spirituality

SUFFERING

Common to Man
in a Fallen World

For **righteousness** sake

Due to our own
"faults"

I. Suffering due to our own "faults".

1 Peter 2:20a

For **what credit is it** if, when you are beaten
for **your faults**, you take it patiently? ...

Faults: sins, weakness, infirmities, foibles, wrong doings..

Our own "faults" comprise **2 broad areas**:

1. Our **sinful** nature - the **sin** in us.

Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such
a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything
that hinders and **the sin that so easily entangles**,
and let us run with perseverance the race marked out
for us.

Our own "faults" comprise **2 broad areas**:

1. Our **sinful** nature - the **sin** in us.

This comprise:

- A. Our **personality** [mind - emotion - will]
- B. Our **relational** and **work** style

Examples of differences in **personalities**:

- "D" Personality - Strength for leadership
- Weakness in pushiness
- "I" Personality - Strength in relating and pleasing people
- Weakness in impulsiveness and failing
to close the loop

Examples of differences in **personalities**:

"S" Personality - Strength in being loyal and faithful
- Weakness in failing to have own convictions

"C" Personality - Strength in looking into details
Weakness in being legalistic

Examples of differences in **relational** and **work** styles:

Our own **"faults"** comprise **2 broad areas**:

2. Our sins are:

A. The things we have done which are **wrong**.

1 Peter 2:20a
For **what credit is it** if, when you are beaten for **your faults**, you take it patiently? ...

Our own **"faults"** comprise **2 broad areas**:

2. Our sins are:

A. The things we have done which are **wrong**.

1 Peter 4:15
But **let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody** in other people's matters.

2. Our sins are:

A. The things we have done which are **wrong**.

Galatians 5:19:21
19The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: **sexual immorality**, impurity and debauchery; **20**idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, **selfish ambition**, dissensions, **factions** **21**and envy; drunkenness, **orgies**, and **the like**. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will **not inherit the kingdom of God**.

Examples of **Wrong Things That We Do**



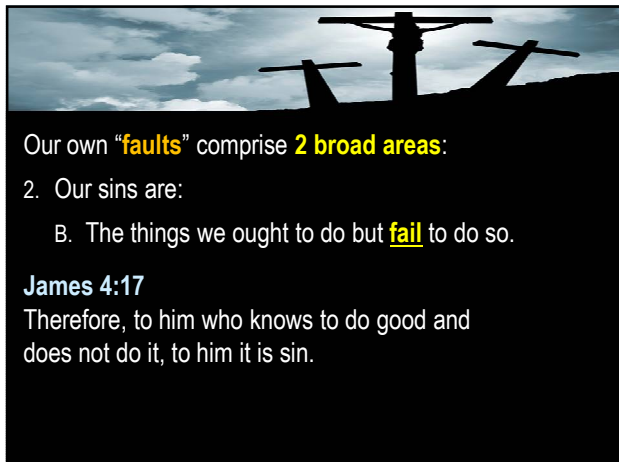
Examples of **Wrong Things** That We Do

- Refusing to heed wise counsel
- Poor Parenting
- Heart-broken as you broke off with your unbeliever friend
- Did not put effort in studying for major examination and end up in no university / no where
- Unwise investments -losses
- For being Ignorant
- Hanging out with wrong-corrupt company
- The curses placed upon ourselves
- For being Greedy



Examples of **Wrong Things** That We Do

- Those who are stubborn and refuse to change - Proverbs 29:1
- Aids and other diseases for being promiscuous
- Inability to find job - suffering from past misdeeds
- Addition to gambling and the outcome is being in debt and family troubles
- Unequally yoked and having marital woes
- Over emphasis on studies to exclusion of spirituals in child. Now child no longer in church.



Our own "**faults**" comprise **2 broad areas**:

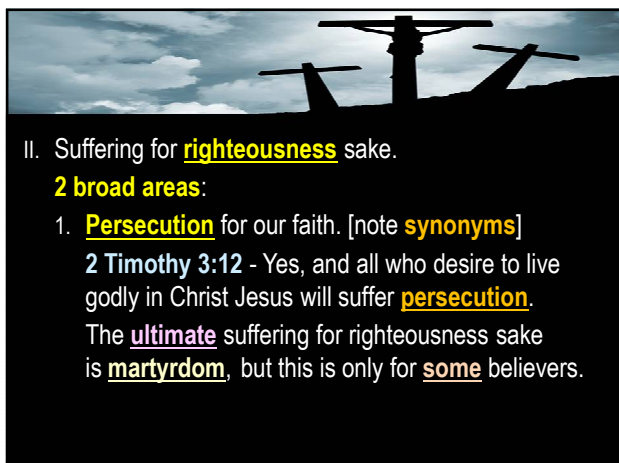
- Our sins are:
 - The things we ought to do but **fail** to do so.

James 4:17
Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.



Examples of **Things We Ought To Do But Fail To Do So**

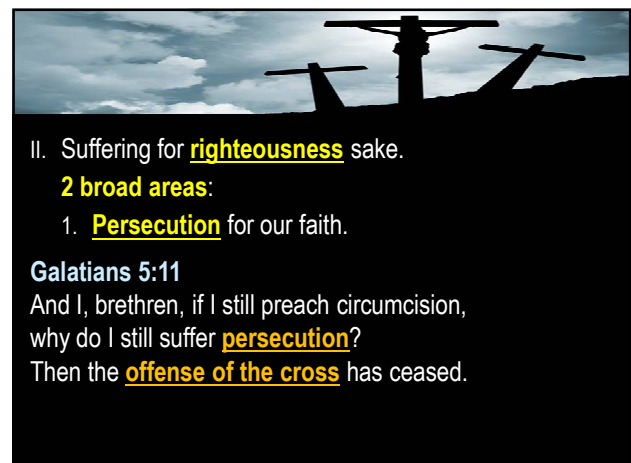
- When prompted to call someone but now, it is too late, she attempted suicide and died.
- Pay attention to your spouse
- Serve God
- Submit and support your CGL-CS-CO
- Establish family altar
- Respond to God / altar call
- Save Money
- Commit to your CG
- Maintain your sexual purity
- Work harder at job!
- Spend time with your children



II. Suffering for **righteousness** sake.

2 broad areas:

- Persecution** for our faith. [note **synonyms**]
2 Timothy 3:12 - Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer **persecution**.
 The **ultimate** suffering for righteousness sake is **martyrdom**, but this is only for **some** believers.




II. Suffering for **righteousness** sake.

2 broad areas:

- Persecution** for our faith.

Galatians 5:11
And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer **persecution**?
Then the **offense of the cross** has ceased.




II. Suffering for righteousness sake.

2 broad areas:

1. Persecution for our faith.

Philippians 1:29
For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him




II. Suffering for righteousness sake.

2 broad areas:

1. Persecution for our faith.

1 Peter 3:14
But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."




II. Suffering for righteousness sake.

2 broad areas:

1. Persecution for our faith.

1 Peter 3:16-17
16having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. 17For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.




II. Suffering for righteousness sake.

2 broad areas:

1. Persecution for our faith.

1 Peter 4:14
If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.




II. Suffering for righteousness sake.

2 broad areas:

1. Persecution for our faith.

1 Peter 4:16
Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.




II. Suffering for righteousness sake.

2 broad areas:


1. Persecution for our faith.

1 Peter 4:19
Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.




Examples of **Persecution in Some Nations**:

- ❖ Going to jail for sharing your faith openly (e.g. China)
- ❖ Being burnt and tortured for refusing to renounce Christianity (e.g. Pakistan, Middle-Eastern countries)
- ❖ Church buildings being burnt down (e.g. C-Sulawesi)



Examples of Persecution **Personally**:

- Being mocked / jeered at when something goes wrong.
"So where is your God now? Why doesn't He help you?"
- Being passed over for a promotion because you refuse to compromise on your integrity.
- Being ostracized from your family and community because of your faith.
- Family upset with you for your refusal to partake in idol worship, ancestor worship etc




II. Suffering for **righteousness** sake.

2 broad areas:

2. In following **Christ** as His disciples.

1 Peter 4:12-13

12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the **fiery trial** which is to **try you**, as though some strange thing happened to you;



II. Suffering for **righteousness** sake.

2 broad areas:

2. In following **Christ** as His disciples.

1 Peter 4:12-13

13 but rejoice to the extent that you **partake of Christ's sufferings**, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.




2. In following **Christ** as His disciples.

- A. This is our journey to overcome the **evil one**.

John 10:10a

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.

John 8:44; Rev 12:9	- Liar and Deceiver
Rev 12:10; Romans 8:1	- Accuser and Condemner
1 Peter 5:8	- Devourer
James 1:14; 1 John 5:19	- Tempter to love of World




2. In following **Christ** as His disciples.

- A. This is our journey to overcome the **evil one**.


Revelation 12:11

And they **overcame him [evil one]** by the **blood** of the Lamb and by the **word of their testimony**, and they **did not love their lives to the death**.




2. In following **Christ** as His disciples.
B. This is our journey to overcome the **world**.

1 John 2:15-16
15 Do not love the **world** or the things in the **world**. If anyone loves the **world**, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the **world**—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the **world**.



2. In following **Christ** as His disciples.
B. This is our journey to overcome the **world**.


1 John 5:4-5
4 For whatever is **born of God** **overcomes the world**. And this is the victory that has **overcome the world**—**our faith**. 5 Who is he who **overcomes the world**, but he who **believes** that Jesus is the Son of God?



2. In following **Christ** as His disciples.
C. This is our journey to overcome our **self-life**.

Luke 9:23
Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him **deny himself**, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

Galatians 2:20 Matthew 16:24-27




III. **All suffering** by a believer is a trial of his **faith**.

1. This includes:


- A. Suffering in a **fallen world** - **No** choice
- B. Suffering due to our own "**faults**" - **Wrong** choice
- C. Suffering for **righteousness sake** - **Right** choice

**God is NOT glorified in All our sufferings!
Only for Christ and Righteousness sake!**



1 Peter 1:7 (NIV)
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.

Mark 4:17
and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when **tribulation** or **persecution** arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble.




III. **All suffering** by a believer is a trial of his **faith**.

2. When the believer connects with God during the trial i.e.

- A. He will develop strength in **perseverance**.


Romans 5:3
And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that **tribulation produces perseverance**



III. **All suffering** by a believer is a trial of his **faith**.

2. When the believer connects with God during the trial i.e.
 - A. He will develop strength in **perseverance**.


James 1:3
 knowing that the **testing of your faith produces patience - perseverance**.



III. **All suffering** by a believer is a trial of his **faith**.

2. When the believer connects with God during the trial i.e.
 - B. He will develop the **character** of Christ.


Romans 5:4a
 and **perseverance, character** ...



III. **All suffering** by a believer is a trial of his **faith**.

2. When the believer connects with God during the trial i.e.
 - C. He will have **hope**.


Romans 5:4b
 ... and **character, hope**.



III. **All suffering** by a believer is a trial of his **faith**.

2. When the believer connects with God during the trial i.e.
 - D. He will experience the deep assurance of the **love** of God.


Romans 5:5
 Now hope does not disappoint, because the **love of God** has been **poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit** who was given to us.



III. **All suffering** by a believer is a trial of his **faith**.


2. When the believer connects with God during the trial i.e.
 - E. He will be **victorious** i.e. an **overcomer**.

James 1:4
 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be **perfect and complete, lacking nothing**.




III. **All suffering** by a believer is a trial of his **faith**.

2. When the believer connects with God during the trial i.e.
 - F. He can now **minister** to others the Grace of God.




F. He can now minister to others the Grace of God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5
 3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.




F. He can now minister to others the Grace of God.

1 Peter 4:10-11
 10As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies ...




The Bottom Line
 If you are: **Suffering for our Own Faults:**

- 1 John 1:9
 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **James 5:16**
- Matthew 10:16b
 Be as wise as serpents and innocent as doves.



The Bottom Line
 If you are: **Suffering for Righteousness Sake:**

Philippians 3:10
 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death



The Bottom Line
 If you are: **Suffering for Righteousness Sake:**

Revelation 22:12
 And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.