

## 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 12: The Secret of Contentment**



*Finding joy in Christ in any and every situation*

### **Introduction**

#### **I. Contentment – *What it is...***

**Philippians 4:10-12** “I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. <sup>11</sup> I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. <sup>12</sup> I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.”

1. *What it is –*

2. *What it is not –*

i. *It is not anti-ambition*

1. *Paul had ambition*

2. *Paul attacked selfish ambition*

ii. *It is not indifference to circumstances*

**Acts 16:37-39** "...They have beaten us publicly, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens...Let them come themselves and take us out."

**1 Corinthians 7:20-21** "Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called...But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity."

**II. Contentment – How to find it...**

1. *By experience*

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10** "To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.<sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.<sup>9</sup> But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness..."

2. *By doing the work in front of you*

**Philippians 2:12-13** "Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,<sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

3. *By listening to truth rather than emotions*

4. *By being truly satisfied in Christ*

**Philippians 4:12-13** "...I have learned the secret of being content...I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

**Philippians 3:8** "What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ."

**John 7:37-38** "...If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."