

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



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

### **I. Introduction**

The dangers of studying God's purposes in suffering

*Danger #1: we might think we should always know his purposes (Is. 55: 8-9; Heb. 13:8)*

*Danger #2: perfect understanding would leave no room for faith (Heb. 11:6)*

*Danger #3: normally, it's not helpful to hypothesize why others are suffering (Prov. 22:20)*

### **II. Suffering is a Gift!?**

- *Phil 1:29 "granted...to suffer for him"*
- *Luke 9: 23-25 "whoever loses his life for me will save it"*
- *Acts 5:41 "counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name"*

We suffering to take hold of something better. That's why it's a gift.

### III. God's Revealed Purposes

- a) To grow us in holiness
  - Ps. 119:67 "...now I obey your word"
- b) To build perseverance
  - Rom 5:3 "...suffering produces perseverance"
- c) To grow us in maturity
  - Jas 1:2-3 "...so that you may be mature"
- d) To teach us His word
  - Ps 119:71 "so that I might learn your decrees"
- e) To help us encourage others
  - 2 Cor 1:3-4 "...so that we can comfort those in any trouble"
- f) To wean us off self-reliance
  - 2 Cor 1: 8b-9 "...so that we might not rely on ourselves but on God"
- g) To strengthen our assurance
  - Heb 12:7-8 "God is treating you as sons"
  - 1 Pet 1:6-7 "...so that your faith...may be proved genuine"
- h) To glorify God
  - Phil 3:7-8 "...for whose sake I have lost all things"

### IV. Conclusion

- a. Avoid the danger of *needing* to know.
- b. Praise God for how much he's already told us of how he uses suffering for good.