

**Core Seminars – Christian Living**  
**Missions: Suffering and Prayer**  
*Week 5 – April 1, 2012*

**Introduction: The means through which God accomplishes His missionary work also glorifies Him.**

**1) Suffering**

**A) Why Does the Gospel Go Forward with Suffering?**

**Who is the cause of suffering?**

- Acts 4:27 – 28... “what your power and will had decided....”
- Philippians 1:29... “it has been given to you...to suffer.
- 1 Thessalonians 3:3-4... “we were destined for them.”

**Why Does God Appoint Suffering for His Servants?**

- Deeper faith and greater holiness  
2 Corinthians 1: 8-9
- To give us greater joy in our reward and the glory of Christ  
2 Corinthians 4: 17-18
- To wake up other Christians and make them bold  
Philippians 1:14
- Suffering moves Christians to the places He wants them to go  
Acts 8:1, Acts 11:19
  
- Suffering magnifies the power and worth of Christ  
Matthew 13:44-45

2 Corinthians 12: 9 – 10

**Who suffers?**

- John 15:20... “they will persecute you.”

- 1 Peter 4: 1 & 12... “arm yourselves with this thought.”

## B) What Does this Mean for Us?

### How Should We React?

- Acts 5: 41... “left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing...”
- Hebrews 10: 34... “joyfully accepted confiscation...”

### Should Christians Choose to Suffer for the Sake of the Name?

- Psalm 63:3... “steadfast love of the Lord is better than life.”
- Phil. 3: 7-8... “suffer loss...that I may gain Christ.”
- What about exposing others to suffering through missions?

### How Do We Prepare for Suffering in Missions?

- Know the worth of the gospel
- Know how your hope is made visible
- Consciously count the cost
- Cultivate an attitude of thankfulness, Not entitlement

## 2) Prayer

### A) If God is Sovereign in Missions, Why Should We Pray?

#### Prayer Proves the Supremacy of God in Missions

- Psalm 50:15... “Call on me in the day of trouble...”
- John 14:13... “that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”
- John 16:24... “that your joy may be full.”

#### God Will Win the War – So Why Pray?

- Matthew 16:18... “I *will* build my church...”
- Genesis 49:10... “To him *shall* be the obedience...”
- John 10:16... “they *will* heed my voice.”
- “Prayers and pains through faith in Christ Jesus will do anything” – John Eliot

## Why Prayer Must be Central to God-honoring Missions

### B) What Does this Mean for Us?

- Realize that prayer for missions is for all mature, balanced Christians
  - Use “Operation World” in your devotions
  - Pray for the “Supported Workers” in the CHBC Membership Directory
  - Pick up missionary letters from the office.
  - Set a specific schedule
  - Get to know CHBC Supported Workers when they visit here.
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