

“The Ministry of Suffering”

Outlined by Ralph Arnold, Pastor

TEXT: Rev. 21:1-4 The ultimate reality is that all suffering on plant earth will be abolished when God creates a new heaven and a new earth, but until then, all believers must understand the ministry of suffering in this present life. This is crucial to the development of the Christian life.

1. Christ’s suffering / death on the cross completely paid for all sin for all people for all time. This is what makes the ultimate reality in the new heavens & the new earth possible. (Hebrews 2:9, 10:10-14,; 1 Peter 3:18)

2. Human suffering may be due to: (Before you blame it all on God, look at the other possibilities)

- A. Adam’s sin (the curse)
- B. individual sin (the consequences)
- C. Satanic attack (1Peter 5:8-9)
- D. the hatred of the world toward Christ (John 15:18-16:6)
- E. God’s known, or unexplained purposes (Romans 8:28-29, Book of Job)

3. Suffering for Christ can be expected in a Godly life (Phil. 1:29, 2 Tim. 3:12; Heb. 10:32; 1 Peter 4:1-16)

4. Human affliction can cause believers:

- A. to learn God’s Word (Psa. 119:67)
- B. to learn to trust and obey the Lord (Psa. 119:71)
- C. to learn patience (Romans 5:3-4)
- D. to prevent spiritual pride (2 Cor. 12:7-11)
- E. to give us a true scale of values (James 1:2-12; 1 Peter 1:6-9)

5. Trusting the Lord through suffering, prepares you to help others find the comfort of God in their own suffering. (2 Cor. 1:3-10)

6. Enduring suffering for Christ can bring believers future rewards in heaven (2 Cor. 4:17; James 1:12)

7. Suffering for Christ is worth it NOW

- A. due to the Glory of God (1 Peter 4:16)
- B. due to the salvation of others (2 Tim. 2:8-10)
- C. due to the ministry to believers (Col. 1:24)
- D. due to your own spiritual growth (Phil 3:10)
- E. and **LATER** (Matthew 5:11-12; Rev. 2:10)

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THE SEVEN MAJOR JUDGMENTS IN SCRIPTURE

1. THE JUDGMENT OF SIN

- a. The Time: c. 30 A.D. The Place: Calvary
- b. The judgment of sin took place on Calvary's cross. It was there that He who knew no sin, became sin for us (2 Cor. 5:21). God judged sin fully and finally in the death of Christ (Hebrews 10:12).

2. THE JUDGMENT OF SELF

- a. The Time: Now The Place: Earth
- b. The judgment of self goes on throughout the believer's life. In 1 Corinthians 11:31 Paul said, "*For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.*" If we are careful to evaluate our own spiritual lives (1 John 1:9), we will avoid the chastening of the Lord.

3. THE JUDGMENT OF BELIEVER'S WORKS

- a. The Time: After the Rapture The Place: Heaven
- b. This judgment will be the time in which the believer will give an account of himself to God as to his motives, conduct, and service (1 Cor. 3:12-15; 2 Cor. 5:9-10). Having done this, Jesus Christ will then reward the believer accordingly (1 Cor. 3:14-15, 4:5; 2 Tim. 4:8; Js. 1:12; 1 Pet. 5:4).

4. THE JUDGMENT OF ISRAEL

- a. The Time: End of Tribulation The Place: Earth
- b. Israel is going to be judged. This is recorded in Ezekiel 20:33-44. When Christ returns at the end of the Tribulation, He's going to purge the rebels out of Israel and take the remaining believers into the Kingdom.

5. THE JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS

- a. The Time: End of Tribulation The Place: Earth
- b. This judgment is explained in Matthew 25:31-46, where the Lord separates the believing Gentiles from the unbelieving ones, and casts the unbelieving ones into Hell. The believing Gentiles go into the Kingdom.

6. THE JUDGMENT OF SATAN AND HIS DEMONS

- a. The Time: End of Kingdom The Place: Earth
- b. Jude 6 tells us: "*And the angels who kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.*" God has planned a special judgment for Satan and his angels. This will occur at the end of the Millennial Kingdom. Satan and his angels will be cast into a lake of fire and brimstone, to be tormented day and night forever and ever (Rev. 20:10; cf. Matt. 25:41).

7. THE JUDGMENT OF THE UNSAVED

- a. The Time: End of Kingdom The Place: Heaven
- b. This is the judgment of all the unsaved of all the ages. It is recorded for us in Rev. 20:11-15. This is called the Great White Throne judgment and happens after the thousand year reign of Christ on earth.
 - i. After the Kingdom, all the unsaved are resurrected, brought before the Great White Throne, and judged out of the books on the basis of their good deeds.
 - ii. Since their names are not found written in the Book of Life and because no one can receive salvation on the basis of good deeds, they are all thrown into the Lake of Fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

“UNDERSTANDING THE TWO NATURES”

Ralph Arnold, Pastor

Text: Eph. 5:17 “...understanding what the..**will** of the Lord is.”

“.....**word** of the Lord is.”

“.....**way** of the Lord is.”

The Contrast

<i>The Old Nature</i>	<i>The New Nature</i>
1. Generation of Death.....Gen. 5	1. Generation of Life.....Matt. 1
Why?	Why?
2. All sinners.....Rom. 3:10,12	2. All righteous.....Eph. 4:24
3. Not God’s Child.....Rom. 9:8	2. Cannot sin.....I John 3:9
4. Sinful nature.....Eph. 2:3	3. God’s child.....John 1:12
5. All die.....Rom. 6:23I John 3:1
6. Flesh cannot inherit the kingdom of God.....I Cor. 15:50	4. Divine Nature.....II Pet. 1:4
	5. Have Eternal Life.....John 6:47
	6. Heirs of God.....Rom. 8:17

The Conflict

Rom. 7:15-24, and Galatians 5:17

<i>Works of the Flesh</i> (Gal. 5:19-21)	<i>Fruits of the Spirit</i> (Gal. 5:22-23)
Adultery	Christian character is not just moral & legal correctness, but the possession and manifestation of all nine graces or fruits.
Fornication	
Uncleanness	Toward yourself
Lasciviousness	Love
Idolatry	Joy
Witchcraft	Peace
Wrath	Toward Mankind
Strife	Longsuffering
Seditions	Gentleness
Heresies	Goodness
Envyings	Toward God
Murders	Faith
Drunkenness	Meekness
Revellings	Temperance

The Conquest is to win the Contest

IF YOU WALK IN THE FLESH = THE FLESH WINS Gal. 5:16

IF YOU WALK IN THE SPIRIT = THE SPIRIT WINS GAL. 5:16

The Crown

I Cor. 9:26-27

Run & Fight so that you may win!