

LISTEN UP & WRITE IT DOWN

The Gospel & Your Suffering

The Gospel for Real Life

Romans 5:1-11

Sunday, November 16, 2008

Introduction

- The Reality of Suffering is _____.
- The Challenge of Suffering is _____.
- The Bible's handling of suffering is _____.

*The Gospel doesn't answer WHY we suffer,
but the Gospel does show us HOW we can suffer with joy!*

How does the Gospel enable us to suffer with joy?

1. We know we have _____ with God, and that cannot be shaken or taken.
2. We know we have a glorious resurrection _____.

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3. We know that sufferings _____ us.
 - a. Perseverance
 - b. Proven Character
 - c. Hope
4. We know that God _____ us, because, in Christ, He entered into our sufferings.
5. We know that God can bring about _____ from suffering, because Christ's sufferings brought about our eternal good.

THINK IT OVER!

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1. Read Romans 5:1-11 again. How many times does Paul use the word exult (NASB) or rejoice (NIV) in this passage? In reference to what in each instance?
2. What do our tribulations or sufferings produce in our lives according to 5:3-4? How do we know this? Is there anything in our experience that shows us this?
3. What demonstrates the love of God for us, even when we face sufferings? Therefore, where should we look when we doubt the love of God when in the midst of our sufferings?
4. What does 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 tell us and to which verse does it connect in the Romans 5 passage and how? How can this verse help us to suffer joyfully?
5. What is our assurance that God can bring about good through our suffering?

WORK IT OUT!

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1. What was new and most challenging for you in this week's text/message?
2. How should naturalists and atheists really view suffering? Why don't they? How does the undeniability of suffering in the world argue FOR the existence of God rather than AGAINST it?
3. Share a time of suffering that produced growth and change in your life and faith.
4. How does the Gospel keep from building our identity around our kids?
5. How do we practically apply and appropriate the Gospel in the midst of our real life suffering? How can we minister the Gospel to others in the midst of their real life suffering?