

"How Come God . . . ?"

HELPFUL SCRIPTURES

SERMON NOTES

2 Corinthians 11:23-28

I. ...Sees Value in Suffering?"

A. Suffering Reminds Us that We are Human

1. A growing number of people today are "autotheists":
 - a. This group believes they answer to no power higher than themselves

Galatians 6:3

- b. But when people suffer, they are confronted by their own powerlessness over their own lives.

1 Peter 5:5-6

1 Peter 2:21-23

B. Suffering Leads Us to God

1. Suffering burns away the mundane things and focuses our attention on the important things!
 - a. Peter was probably the loudest in the apostles' frequent discussions about who was the greatest!

Matthew 14:30

- b. The problem is that some may wait too long before they seek after God.

Luke 16:24-31

Acts 26:28

C. Suffering Prepares Us to be Compassionate to Others

1. We've all heard, "You cannot judge a man until you have walked a mile in his shoes."
 - a. There are two ways people respond to the suffering of others...

Hebrews 4:15-16

D. Suffering Focuses Us on the Eternal vs. the Temporal

1. **(Eph. 2:19)**, "*You are no longer...*" **(1 Pt. 2:11)**, "*I urge you as aliens & strangers to abstain...*"
 - a. The early Christians knew they didn't belong here.

Hebrews 11:13-16

Romans 8:18

2 Corinthians 4:18

E. Suffering Enhances Our Prayers

1. Prayer is an instinctive response to hardship. But effective prayer is a learned exercise.
 - a. On one occasion, after Jesus finished praying, His apostles said to Him...."

Luke 11:1

Isaiah 53:3

Luke 22:44

CONCLUSION:

Hebrews 9:27

2 Corinthians 6:2

Mark 16:16