

Lecture 1 – Suffering: A Case Study

Outline

1. Common response to suffering: Why me?
A question of purpose.
 - A. Worse than pain is the sense that suffering has no value or purpose
 - B. Judy Griese-“I just cannot take it anymore”
 - C. Martin Luther-“It is the duty of every Christian to be Christ to his neighbor”
2. Is suffering from the Devil?
 - A. Erroneous views on suffering
 - * God doesn’t have anything to do with suffering
 - B. Biblical view connecting God and suffering
 - * God is intimately involved with pain and suffering
 - * Jesus: A man of sorrows acquainted with grief (the Suffering Servant)
 - * Conclusion: It is impossible that any pain could be without purpose
 - * The character of God allows us to trust Him
3. Christians are often surprised by any suffering
 - * 1 Pet. 4:12 (“think it not strange”)
 - * God sometimes calls us to suffer (“vocation”)

Scriptural References

Numbers 12:9-10
Genesis 50:20
Job 2:8-10
Job 13:15
John 9:1-3
John 16:33
Romans 5:5
Romans 8:18-21, 26-28

Questions to Consider

1. What would you have said to Judy Griese?
2. What would you have wanted had you been Judy Griese?

Notes