

Christ Also Suffered **1 Peter 3:18 (NKJV)**

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

Does it bother you that the pages of the Bible seem to be filled with much suffering?

Does it bother you that life seems to have far too much suffering?

For many Christians in non Christian nations suffering is a way of life.

We have seen that in Peter's day the Christians often suffered.

He has told them that they are to take their suffering patiently and not strike back.

But what words does he have for us to comfort us.

- I. The Sufferings of Christ Were Many; For Christ also suffered
 - A. This proves that Jesus became one of us.
 1. He knew the many sorrows of life.
 2. He experience those things that trouble us yet without sin.
 - B. He suffered the persecution that His people often suffer.
 1. The comfort that Jesus knows what that feels like, emotionally as well as physically.
 2. He saw the inhumanity of man to other of mankind.
 3. He was the best human to ever live yet they treated Him the worst.
 4. He was gentile and kind but they were rough and truly hateful.
 - C. His special suffering.
 1. It started first in the Garden where He was in agony, and sweat great drops of blood.
 - a. The name of the place to which Jesus went was Gethsemane. That means "olive press." And it typifies, it pictures, the pressure that was on the Lord Jesus Christ. *Adrian Rogers, "The Purpose of His Passion," in Adrian Rogers Sermon Archive (Signal Hill, CA: Rogers Family Trust, 2017), Is 53:4–6.*
 2. He was arrested and unfairly abused by the guard.
 3. He was mocked and humiliated by the Sanhedrin.
 4. He was dehumanized by Pilate's and Herod's soldiers.

- a. The crown of thorns forced upon His brow.
- 5. He was scourged.
 - a. Psalm 129:3 (NKJV)
 - (1) 3 The plowers plowed on my back; They made their furrows long.”
 - b. A Roman implement for severe bodily punishment. Horace calls it horrible flagellum. It consisted of a handle, to which several cords or leather thongs were affixed, which were weighted with jagged pieces of bone or metal, to make the blow more painful and effective. *Henry E. Dosker, “Scourge, Scourging,” ed. James Orr et al., The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia (Chicago: The Howard-Severance Company, 1915), 2704.*

II. The Sufferings of Christ Were for a Purpose

A. For sins, our sins

- 1. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)
 - a. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- 2. Jesus didn’t simply die for sin.
- 3. That is what happens to us.
- 4. The wages of sin is death.
- 5. But He suffered and died for our sins.
- 6. He took our punishment.
- 7. We may suffer, and probably will some time or other.
- 8. But He was bruised for our iniquities the chastisement of our peace was laid on Him.
- 9. Isaiah 53:5 (NKJV)
 - a. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

B. To make an atonement

- 1. It means a covering.
- 2. Jesus blood became to covering for our sins.
- 3. In the communion service today, the cup represents that blood that was

shed for the remission, the doing away with our sin.

C. They were substitutionary

1. The just for the unjust

2. Isaiah 53:11 (NKJV)

a. 11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.

III. The Sufferings of Christ Are Effectual

A. That He might bring us to God.

1. We are like the traveler following the wrong path, the path that leads us to destruction.

2. But Jesus by His suffering comes to bring us to God.

a. First He must make us presentable to God.

b. This He does through the work of the word and the Spirit of God.

c. In regeneration He makes us alive and we see ourselves as violators of God's holy will.

d. He works repentance and faith in our hearts.

e. And we become new creatures in Christ Jesus.

B. He takes away the offense, our sin, between us and God.

1. He cancels the sin against us by His own sacrifice.

2. Though once we were children of wrath, now we are children of God.

C. He cleanses us with His blood.

1. Hebrews 9:14 (NKJV)

a. 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

D. He makes us acceptable to God through His suffering

1. Ephesians 1:6 (NKJV)

a. 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

IV. He Suffered unto Death

- A. He died in the flesh.
 - 1. This says that He suffered all the way to death.
 - 2. His was no partial suffering, but complete and final.
 - 3. “Only the damned in hell can begin to know the sufferings of the Lord Jesus on the cross.” Adrian Rogers, “The Purpose of His Passion,” in *Adrian Rogers Sermon Archive* (Signal Hill, CA: Rogers Family Trust, 2017), Is 53:4–6.

- B. But He was made alive by the Spirit
 - 1. The best part of the gospel story is that Jesus did not stay dead.
 - 2. The same spirit that raised Him from the dead will do the same for us.
 - a. Romans 8:11 (NKJV)
 - (1) 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

- V. His Sufferings Have Finished.
 - A. He suffered once
 - 1. Hebrews 7:27 (NKJV)
 - a. 27 who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.
 - 2. Hebrews 10:14 (NKJV)
 - a. 14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.
 - 3. Unlike the priest of the Old Testament that had to offer sacrifices over and over again.
 - B. He said it is finished.
 - 1. John 19:30 (NKJV)
 - a. 30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.
 - 2. Finished *Tetelestai*
 - 3. Now, here’s the next thing I want you to notice very quickly: I want you to notice, friend, the settled provision of the cross. First Peter 3, verse 18:

“For Christ also hath once suffered”—“once suffered.” Don’t miss that word once. That means it is done; it is finished. The Bible says, “For by one offering he hath [sanctified] for ever them that are [saved]”—“by one offering.” (Hebrews 10:14) Never, ever, ever again will the Lord Jesus Christ face the cross. It is done. When He bowed His head upon that cross, He said, “*Tetelestai*.” In the Greek language, it literally means “paid in full.” It is translated in our Bible, “It is finished,” (John 19:30) but it literally means “paid in full.” *Adrian Rogers, “The Purpose of His Passion,” in Adrian Rogers Sermon Archive (Signal Hill, CA: Rogers Family Trust, 2017), Is 53:4–6.*