

Thinking Correctly about Suffering

Philippians 1:29-30

Proposition: *Suffering (for the sake of Jesus Christ) is one of God's gracious gifts.*

4 things God desires to accomplish in you when He allows suffering to enter your door:

- I. God desires **to make you more like His Son** through suffering.
- II. God desires **to help you advance His Gospel** through suffering.
- III. God desires **to deepen your worship of Him** through suffering.
 - A. Your worship will become more focused on Jesus Christ and less focused on yourself or your desires.
 - B. Your personal worship will become more complete and genuine and less unfulfilled or robotic.
 - C. Your corporate worship will become more precious and appreciated and less dull or detached.
- IV. God desires **to broaden your global perspective of His Church** through suffering.
 - A. You will identify with other Christians as they *suffer well*.
 - B. You will encourage other Christians to *suffer well* together.
 - C. You will realize that you are not alone or abandoned as you *suffer well* for Jesus Christ's sake.

Application

1. **By God's grace, suffer well as a Christian.**
2. **By God's grace, do not waste the opportunity of suffering by only focusing inwardly.**
3. **Rest fully on God's grace as He helps you advance His glory through suffering for Christ.**