

# The Necessity of Suffering in the Redemption and Restoration of Mankind

1 Peter 5:10-14

## Introduction

### The main theme throughout the letter:

*that, like Christ, we too should humbly submit to God's ultimate purpose in persecution and suffering.*

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.... through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God” (1 Peter 3:18, 21-22).

*Why must we suffer as part of God's plan of redemption?*

“that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead” (Philippians 3:10-11).

*I understand why He had to die, but why did Jesus have to suffer?*

To *atone* for the sins of mankind in order to “bring us to God...through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 3:18, 21).

*But why do we as Christians have to suffer along the ways if payment for our sins has already been paid?*

It is by His suffering and death that Jesus paid the price for our sins. So it is through our shared suffering and death to self that we are transformed into His likeness.

## I. The Necessity of Christ's Suffering for the Redemption of Man

Jesus came to recover what was lost in the Garden of Eden – *the image and glory of God in mankind.*

“For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin” (Hebrews 2:10-11).

“one origin” = “the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ” (1 Peter 5:10).

“He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature” (Hebrews 1:3).

“For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him” (Colossians 2:9-10).

“the founder/author/originator” of our salvation is leading us on “to his eternal glory in Christ” (1 Peter 5:10) in this, His reclamation and restoration project.

## **Romans 8:28-30**

### **We are united with Christ in His death and resurrection (Romans 6).**

“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God” (Colossians 3:1).

### **As believers, we are *one with Christ*: sharing in His death, His resurrection, and His glory!**

“The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one” (John 17:22-23).

### **It was necessary that He suffer as a Man in order to serve as an acceptable Sacrifice for man.**

### **That means we experience no darkness darker than Jesus experienced.**

### **From earnest prayer request to resolute determination: The agony of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane:**

“And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, ‘My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will’” (Matthew 26:39).

“And he said, ‘Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will’” (Mark 14:36).

“And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, ‘Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.’.... And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground” (Luke 22:41-42, 44).

### **Jesus said to Peter who resisted His captors with a sword in the Garden:**

“Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?” (John 18:11).

“shall I not” The Gk (*ou me*) is emphatic. He now knew that He *must* necessarily drink it.

### **“The cup” in the OT is often associated with terrible suffering and the wrath of God:**

“Thus the Lord, the God of Israel, said to me: ‘Take from my hand this cup of the wine of wrath, and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it. They shall drink and stagger and be crazed because of the sword that I am sending among them.’ So I took the cup from the Lord's hand, and made all the nations to whom the Lord sent me drink it” (Jeremiah 25:15-17).

“You have gone the way of your sister; therefore I will give her cup into your hand. Thus says the Lord God: ‘You shall drink your sister's cup that is deep and large; you shall be laughed at and held in derision, for it contains much; you will be filled with drunkenness and sorrow. A cup of horror and desolation, the cup of your sister Samaria’” (Ezekiel 23:31-33).

### **Jesus now looks beyond secondary causes.**

Now “for the joy set before him,” He is able to “endure the cross,” soon to be reunited with the Father, “at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2).

## II. The Necessity of Our Suffering for the Restoration of Man

### **We can see from this progression in the Garden:**

- † First, we hear the cry from His heart to the Father for relief from the terrors that lie ahead.
- † Second, we witness His willingness to submit to the Father's will in the face of severe agony and suffering.
- † Third, we see His prayer answered in His ability to accept and withstand the agony once He knew it was the Father's will. "...*the cup that the Father has given me*" (John 18:11).

This is our example for how we are able to handle trouble when it comes.

"For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps" (1 Peter 2:21).

"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.... Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good' (1 Peter 4:12-14, 19).

"The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance" (Psalm 16:5-6).

There is no other school as valuable to the Christian as that through suffering. It is the best teacher of wisdom and obedience.

### **At no time are we closer to the Master than when He is working in the laboratory of our hearts.**

The sufferings of Christ for the salvation of man and the sufferings of man in the process of sanctification, are both indispensable since both are absolutely necessary in redemption and glorification.

### **Next: From Resurrection to Ascension and the Advent of the Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts.**

"And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen."

"By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. Greet one another with the kiss of love.

Peace to all of you who are in Christ (vv12-14).