

I. All Christians suffer

- A. One of the chief questions in the Bible (Job; Psalm 73)
- B. One of the chief experiences of human beings
- C. The big picture
- D. The more vexing small picture
- E. To answer, "Why?" we need to look at, "How?"

II. Paul in prison and what happened

- A. In Rome, in custody (see Acts 28:16, 30-31; Ephesians 6:20; Colossians 4:18; 2 Timothy 1:16; 2:9)
- B. A problem for good citizens of Rome
- C. This has served the progress of the gospel!
- D. Opportunities for witness directly through his suffering
- E. Inspiring boldness among others
- F. An aside: different motives for preaching Christ

III. Vindication

- A. Future salvation (Job 13:16; see Romans 1:16; 10:10; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Philippians 1:28b; also Romans 5:9; 1 Corinthians 3:15; 5:5; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9; also, e.g., Romans 8:18-30; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14)
- B. Their prayers and the answer
- C. Honoring Christ in the body
- D. Live or die?

IV. How and why

- A. Mercies, and there are many!
- B. Opportunities for Christ to be made known
- C. Encouragement for your brethren
- D. Above all: look to your salvation
- E. Why we suffer: preparation for glory