

Suffering With Christ NOW To Enter Into Glory LATER

That tried-and-true principle runs all through the scriptures.

Even general work ethics recognize it as 'Business Before Pleasure'.

The prophets predicted Christ's sufferings followed by His glory:

1 Peter 1:11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

Likewise, it will be for us who believe in Him. 1st, suffering; then, glory:

1 Peter 5:1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

After His death and resurrection, the 'risen, glorified Lord' taught all through the Bible how His sufferings and glory were written beforehand:

Luke 24:26-27 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Jesus suffered unto death and was raised to life and glory:

Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

As God's sons through Christ, we too will be raised to eternal life and glory:

Heb 2:10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

'But now' present-time sufferings for 'ages to come' future-time glory:

Rom 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

First, we must suffer with Him in order to later get the reward:

2 Tim 2:12 **If we suffer, we shall also reign with him:**
if we deny him, he also will deny us:

Jesus did not think of His own pleasure; He suffered for righteousness' sake

Rom 15:3 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, **as it is written,**
The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

A dictionary defines the word 'reproach' as an expression of

- shame,
- disgrace,
- discredit,
- blame, or
- scorn.

The reproaches of Christ are what He suffered,
for the cause of God from His enemies.

We are taught of God to help others and not to be selfish:

Rom 15:1-4 We then that are strong ought to **bear the infirmities** of the weak, and **not to please ourselves.**

This command from God is not just for a 'FEW' of us.

It is not even for 'SOME' of us.

It is for 'ALL' of us for 'EACH' of us to obey the Lord:

2 Let **every one of us** please his neighbour for his good to edification.

Jesus is the Great Example of Unselfishness. We should follow His lead:

3 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, **as it is written,**
The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

Christ suffered for godliness. So have the saints throughout the ages:

4 **For whatsoever things were written aforetime**
were written for our learning, that we through patience and
comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Our text verse **Rom 15:3** quotes **Psa 69:9**, as we consider the reproaches and shame that Christ endured for the sake of God His Father:

Psa 69:7-9 Because **for thy sake I have borne reproach; shame** hath covered my face.

8 I am become a **stranger** unto my brethren,
and an **alien** unto my mother's children.

9 For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and **the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.**

Jesus Christ was upbraided denounced chided stigmatized:

Psa 69:19-21 **Thou hast known my reproach, and my shame, and my dishonour:**

mine adversaries are all before thee.

20 **Reproach hath broken my heart;** and I am full of heaviness:
and I looked for some to take pity, but there was none;
and for comforters, but I found none.

21 They gave me also gall for my meat;
and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

Jesus suffered scorn as He hung on the cross dying for sinners:

Matt 27:33-44 And when they were come unto a place called **Golgotha**, that is to say, **a place of a skull**,

34 They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall:
and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink.

35 And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots:
that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet,
They parted my garments among them,
and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

36 And sitting down they watched him there;

37 And set up over his head his accusation written,
THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

38 Then were there two thieves crucified with him,
one on the right hand, and another on the left.

39 And **they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads,**

40 And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days (as Jesus prophesied of His body in **John 2:19-21**), save thyself.
If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.

(Matt 27:) 41 **Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders,** said,
 42 He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.
 43 **He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.**
 44 The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth. (**Mark 15:32** says "they that were crucified with Him **reviled** Him")

The prophets testified the sufferings the reproaches of Christ:

Psa 22:6-8 But I am **a worm, and no man;**
a reproach of men, and **despised** of the people.
 7 All they that see me **laugh me to scorn:**
 they **shoot out the lip,**
they shake the head, saying,
 8 He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him:
 let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.

The Hebrew word that was translated 'worm' in **Psa 22:6,**
 was written 43 times. It was translated • 'scarlet' 34 times,
 • 'crimson' 1 time, and
 • 'worm' 8 times.

It is about a female scarlet worm species, that, when ready to give birth, attaches her body to the trunk of a tree, never to leave again. She deposits her eggs under her, protecting them until they hatch and leave. She dies there, and her crimson fluid stains the tree. What a picture of Christ, dying on a tree, shedding His blood in bringing many sons unto glory (Heb 2:10) as the captain of their salvation was made perfect through sufferings.

The Psalms often described the reproach Jesus endured on the cross:

Psa 89:41 All that pass by the way spoil him:
he is a reproach to his neighbours.

Psa 42:10 As with a sword in my bones, **mine enemies reproach me;**
 while they say daily unto me, **Where is thy God?**

How did Jesus handle reproach? He had no fault of His own.

He suffered because of us and He endured reproach without a word:

Isa 53:4-7 Surely **he hath borne our griefs,**
and carried our sorrows:

yet we did esteem him **stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.**

5 But **he was wounded for our transgressions,**
he was bruised for our iniquities:

the chastisement of our peace was upon him;
 and with his stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray;
 we have turned every one to his own way;
 and **the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

7 **He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth:** he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so **he openeth not his mouth.**

When someone gets sentenced for crimes, it is expected for them to take their rightful punishment for justice. But to be chastened for doing good?

Look at Christ's response for that. **He was our example in suffering:**

1 Peter 2:19-25 For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God **endure grief, suffering wrongfully.**

20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently?
 but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

21 For even **hereunto were ye called:**
 because **Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:**

22 **Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:**
 23 **Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again;**
when he suffered, he threatened not;
but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

24 Who **his own self bare our sins** in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness:
 by whose stripes ye were healed.

25 For ye were as sheep going astray;
 but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

What do we do? Do we jump ahead of the crowd to get in the front of the line so we can be served first? Or do we choose to serve others?

Phil 2:3-8 Let nothing be done through strife (contentions, being selfish, putting one's self forward) or vainglory (empty pride); but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Are we always 'looking out for #1' caring just for me, myself, and I?

4 Look not every man on his own things,
but every man also on the things of others.

Look again at the suffering of Christ, and compare our attitude with HIS:

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God,
thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But **made himself of no reputation,**

Do we do that? or do we try to MAKE a reputation for ourselves?

and took upon him the form of a servant,

Do we constantly serve others, and make ourselves like THEIR servant?

and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man,

he humbled himself,

and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Again, look at Jesus' example. He focused on the glory after the suffering:

Heb 12:2-3 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Sinners mocked and discredited Him. Yet He did not quit and give up:

3 For consider him that endured such contradiction (opposition, gainsaying, rebellion) of sinners against himself,

lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

The scriptures warn us not to be surprised by persecution.
 God gave instructions how we should handle being mistreated.
 Can you, would you, do you respond to tribulation by rejoicing?

- 1 Peter 4:12-19** Beloved, **think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:**
- 13 But **rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.**
- 14 **If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.**
- 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.
- 16 Yet **if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.**
- 17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, **what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?** (Paul answered that question in **2 Thess 1:7-9.** They will be punished with everlasting destruction when the Lord comes in flaming fire taking vengeance on them.)
- 18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?
- 19 Wherefore **let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.**

Believers, who are separate from the world will be persecuted by them:

- Phil 1:27-30** Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye **stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;**
- 28 And **in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.**
- 29 For **unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;**
- 30 Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

Godliness is not worldliness. Take heed being worldly is not godly:

John 15:18-21 If the world hate you,
ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

19 **If ye were of the world, the world would love his own:
but because ye are not of the world,
but I have chosen you out of the world,
therefore the world hateth you.**

20 Remember the word that I said unto you,
**The servant is not greater than his lord.
If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you;**
if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

These are the sufferings of Christ in which we share:

21 But **all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake,**
because they know not him that sent me.

Jesus told His disciples ahead of time what to expect from the world:

John 16:1-3 These things have I spoken unto you,
that ye should not be offended.

2 They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that
whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

These are the sufferings of Christ which we partake of:

3 And **these things will they do unto you,**
because they have not known the Father, nor me.

Jesus prepared His disciples to be happy during times of trial:

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might
have peace. **In the world ye shall have tribulation:
but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.**

We have the hope of eternal life as an anchor of our soul, both sure
and stedfast (Heb 6:19) so we do not need to worry about death:

Matt 10:28 And **fear not them which kill the body,**
but are not able to kill the soul:
but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

NOTHING can sever us from the love of God in Christ:

Rom 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
shall **tribulation, or distress, or persecution,**
or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

These are the sufferings of Christ:

36 **As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long;**
we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, **in all these things we are more than conquerors**
through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that **neither death,** nor life, nor angels, nor prin-
cipalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, **shall be able to sepa-
rate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Everyone who 'will' live godly 'will' suffer for Christ. What will you do?

2 Tim 3:12 Yea, and **all** that **will** live godly in Christ Jesus
shall suffer persecution.

Moses chose to suffer the reproach of Christ. What will you choose?

Heb 11:24-27 By faith **Moses,** when he was come to years,
refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

25 **Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God,**
than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

26 **Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the trea-
sures in Egypt:** for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king:
for **he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.**

If we suffer with Him now, we shall reign with Him later in glory at the end:

Heb 13:12-15 Wherefore **Jesus also,** that he might sanctify the people
with his own blood, **suffered** without the gate.

13 **Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp,**
bearing his reproach.

14 For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually,
that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.