

# "GRACE & GLORY for SIN & SUFFERING"

Romans 8:16-18

\*\*\* VIDEO: "I Was There" \*\*\*

***"The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. – Romans 8:16-17***

"The God on whom we rely knows what suffering is all about – not merely in the way that God knows "everything"... but by experience." - D.A. Carson

"We need to be trained PRIOR-TO suffering... so that... we may be fully sustained IN suffering." - C.J. Mahaney

"The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church." – Tertullian

**John 12:23-26** = *And Jesus \*answered them, saying, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. 26 If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.*

"Suffering saints are living seeds." - Spurgeon

\*\*\* VIDEO: "Top 10 Errors on Biblical Suffering" (Driscoll) \*\*\*

## **We will share in Christ's glory:**

**John 17:22** = *The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one;*

**Colossians 3:2-4** = *Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.*

\*\*\* **2 Corinthians 3:18** = *And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

**2 Corinthians 3:10-15** = God-honoring suffering brings greater heavenly rewards...

**\*\*\* VIDEO: "Do You Desire God?" \*\*\***

**T/S: KEY = Approaching "suffering" from LOVE vs. LOGIC!**

\*\*\* Now.... NOW... let's read **Romans 8:18** =

***For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.***

Key words:

**"consider"** = the feeling of factual... certainty after calculation...

**"the glory"** = the new DNA of God's children,  
God's heirs,  
the co-heirs with Christ!

We will be perfected in God's glory!

(While Satan, Sin, & "self" want God's power..  
His children & heirs love Him unconditionally,  
and are overwhelmed with praise & worship for  
HIS love, grace, mercy, & glory)

He not only gives us His Gift(s) now....

He promises to transform us into  
His glory for all of eternity!

Love transfers the question of "value" out of the "head," into an equation of the heart.

The "Great Exchange" is considered & calculated in the head, but consummated in the heart!

Here's the thing... you and I, without the saving grace of God, are worth far less than the dirtiest penny in the filthiest of gutters. The Bible says that we are vile rags without Jesus... And the only thing that dwarfs the scale of our smallness... is the immense and immeasurable majesty of our Giant & glorious King.

Value/Exchange:

**Level One: Piece of Candy** for Chesapeake Bay Banquet of Rockfish & Crabs

(Depends on what you "like" & how "hungry" you are...)

**Level Two: Band-Aide...** for Miracle Medicine that comes in a BIG needle...

(Depends on if you feel sick & think you need the medicine...)

**Level Three: Your Penny** (it was a gift given to you... )

A. Your Penny for a dime...

- a. EXCHANGE offered = I will give you a dime for your penny... if you commit to using the dime for "good" (note: while you will not be forced to give your dime to any particular entity... you do, nonetheless, acknowledge that there can be NO selfish or self-centered use of the dime...)
- b. 10X the street value... of what you have
- c. But what is the "personal value" to YOU?
- d. Is the dime worth the effort of going thru a trade?
- e. Whose willing to interrupt the "norm" & "schedule" for the net gain of 9 cents? I know it marks a 900% increase but if we don't really value "pennies," even a ROI like that just isn't "worth it"
  - e.i. Note: Some did not find it worth it...
  - e.ii. Note: Some did find it worth it...
  - e.iii. What's the difference?
    - e.iii.1. ANSWER:
      - e.iii.1.a. How much value put in penny
      - e.iii.1.b. How much value put in st. quo
    - e.iii.2. KEY = What do you REALLY value?

B. Your Penny for a \$10 bill...

- a. EXCHANGE offered = I will give you a \$10 bill for your penny if you maintain the same "use-it-for-unselfish-good" commitment, but ADD to that, a surrendering of "personal rights" and "position" in this world... (i.e.
- b. 100X the street value of your penny...

C. Your Penny for a \$100 bill...

- a. EXCHANGE offered = I will give you a \$100 bill for your penny if you maintain the same "use-it-for-good" and "surrender-all-rights" commitment; regarding the resources and your personhood.... PLUS.... You must be willing to suffer unthinkable torture and relentless agonies for the cause to which the \$100 will be appointed. Sight unseen. No questions asked. The "exchange" requires a "No Matter

What," "ALL-IN" commitment upfront. IMPORTANT: you now know the cost up front!

- b. \$100 bill for everyone willing to be kicked, whipped, and spit upon as you step forward to pick up YOUR cross and follow Jesus.... FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!
- c. 1000X the street value of your penny...
- d. Note the FACT... the offer = 1000X benefit in value...
- e. Note: "personal value" often puts feelings over facts

\*\*\* Now... let's assume YOUR LIFE = the PENNY...

Exchange your penny of sin for a dime of forgiveness?

Exchange your penny of selfishness for \$10 of surrendered living?

Exchange your penny of superficiality for \$100 of suffering?

Exchange your penny of Satanic gloom for God's priceless glory???

Many would be insulted by that illustration... (you shouldn't be)

Note how I gave you the penny... just like God gave you your life.

...Life is a gift of God.

Life's value is created, sustained, and multiplied by God.

Just like pennies... lives are either saved & thrown away..

Saved lives... like saved pennies have the potential to do great things...

Thrown-away lives... like discarded pennies... prove sadly, useless.

Are you wanting & willing to exchange your sin & self for the Son?

Do you put more value in HIS dime or YOUR penny?

Are you willing to commit to using your penny/life for His gospel?

Is this a "life" or "lips" commitment – cause He will know.

Are you wanting & willing to exchange your rights for His righteousness?

Do you value your wants & ways more than HIS call to surrender ALL?

Are you willing to live life as a maligned misfit here in the world?

Are you willing to be mocked, laughed at, & left out by the world?

Are you willing to surrender & crucify self EVERY day to the glory of God?

**2 Corinthians 4:10-11; 16-18 = "We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. 11 For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body... 16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."**

**THE GREAT EXCHANGE: === God's Grace & Glory for your Sin & Suffering**

**1 Peter 5:6-11** = *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Real love... Re-Defines "RATIONAL"**

**LET'S PRAY!**

**John 17:22** = *The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one...*

Now listen to this song as it sings the message of John 17:22

First song = Jesus' singing to us...

Second song = Our honest song to Jesus

Third song = Christian's song to fellow Christian...

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