

SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP

CLASS 9

SUFFERING

What does it mean to suffer? The word suffer appears in a variety of forms over 150 times in the Bible, and in the New Testament alone there are over a dozen Greek words for the one word suffer.

Phil. 1:29 (KJV) *For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;*

Suffer - G3958

paschō pathō penthō

pas'-kho, path'-o, pen'-tho

Apparently a primary verb (the third form used only in certain tenses for it); to *experience* a sensation or impression (usually painful):—feel, passion, suffer, vex.

This is the lot of disciples, that they suffer, or feel pain, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ. This suffering can manifest itself either physically or emotionally. To avoid suffering in this life is to deny one's discipleship. Suffering is a seal of sonship and discipleship.

Romans 8:18 (KJV) *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.*

Sufferings - G3804

pathēma

path'-ay-mah

From a presumed derivative of [G3806](#); something *undergone*, that is, *hardship* or *pain*; subjectively an *emotion* or *influence*:—affection, affliction, motion, suffering.

A disciple understands that the persecutions and afflictions of this life pale in comparison to the glory that shall be revealed in us.

Romans 8:17 (KJV) *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

Suffer - G4841

sumpaschō

soom-pas'-kho

From [G4862](#) and [G3958](#) (including its alternate); to *experience pain jointly* or of the *same kind* (specifically *persecution*; to “sympathize”):—suffer with.

The disciple understands that he or she does not suffer alone. The Lord was truly alone when He experienced His suffering; if He lives in us and through us, then any suffering we experience is a shared experience. The person who says “I suffer alone” truly is alone, for Christ is prohibited from sharing in that suffering.

Philippians 3:10 (KJV) *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*

Paul's desire was to partake in the sufferings of the Lord Jesus Christ. To receive communion is to receive His broken body and shed blood. By accepting communion, the recipient also accepts His suffering. The word for suffering in this Scripture is the same word in Romans 8:18.

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

G1377

diōkō

dee-o'-ko

A prolonged (and causative) form of a primary verb διώ diō (to *flee*; compare the base of [G1169](#) and [G1249](#)); to *pursue* (literally or figuratively); by implication to *persecute*:—ensue, follow (after), given to, (suffer) persecute (-ion), press toward.

It is not the religious, nor the attender of church services that shall suffer persecution; rather, it is the person that chooses to live a godly lifestyle in Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 4:15-16 (KJV) *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. ¹⁶Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.*

The word suffer in verse 15 is the same Greek word in Phil. 1:29. Our suffering should not be as a result of our disobedience; rather, it should be a consequence of our obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ. How, then, should a Christian suffer?

1 Peter 2:19-20 (KJV) *For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. ²⁰For 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.*

The word thankworthy in verse 19 is the Greek word charis, which is also translated grace in other parts of the New Testament. The word means “the divine influence upon the heart, and the reflection in the life.” Therefore, suffering wrongfully is a reflection of the influence that the Lord Jesus has on the life of a disciple. Enduring the grief of suffering wrongfully is a sign that the God kind of love is working in and through the life of a person.

NOTES
