

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE
CHRIST'S SUFFERING CHANGES OUR SUFFERING
Romans 8

Continuing our exploration of the reality and meaning of suffering in our lives

1. We live under the "law of sin and death" (8:2)

As we have seen from Scripture,
the Fall of Adam brought us all under sin and death,
which reign over us like an iron law.

2. But Christ suffered for sinners to set us free (8:3,2)

The Law of God could not free us from sin and death -
because it can only expose and condemn our sins (3:19,20),
not atone for them or free us from their power over us.
Christ the Son of God came from heaven to take on Himself
the guilt of our sins and the punishment they deserve;
he suffered for us
to free us from sin and death.

This freedom begins now with new birth and indwelling by the Spirit –
Who enables us to war with remaining sins and live as the
commandments of God direct (8:5, 8:13,14).

Yet

3. Yet in this life Christians *still* must suffer (8:17-23)

Still suffering in our bodies & psyches the general & specific
consequences of sin (the curse), AND added:
the suffering of struggle against our sins & temptations,
& suffering at the hands of a hostile world which hates Christ.
All of this is part and parcel of "suffering *with* Christ" (8:17).

4. But our suffering is completely changed by Christ's

For those who have been called by God to faith in Christ (8:28) –
Suffering no longer = an expression of the wrath of God against us.
God is no longer our Judge; He has become our loving Father.
We are no longer His enemies; we have become His children.
Therefore, for Christian believers suffering is NOT punishment,
though it may indeed be the loving discipline of the Father
(Hebrews 12:5-11).

God uses our sufferings for our good, 8:28-29.

He gives us many helps in our suffering, not least the Holy Spirit!
& suffering cannot separate true believers from the love of God in
Christ Jesus, 8:30-39

Suffering now is temporary; future glory Christ will be eternal, 8:30

Do not lose heart: in all of this

"we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us" (37)
and suffered & triumphed for us.