



Faith Talk

Trinity Canadian Reformed Church

Worshiping Sundays 9 am and 3 pm, 2553 Binbrook Rd E

Suffering

By Teresa Boisvert

Are you suffering? Have you ever suffered in the past? Perhaps it can be argued that watching a loved one suffer is even more difficult than the suffering itself. Suffering entered the world after the fall into sin (See Gen 3).

Throughout the Bible we can read about people who suffered. A well-known example is Job, who lost his family, his possessions and his health, but still remained faithful to the Lord. Think of Joseph, who was sold into slavery by his brothers, and later imprisoned unjustly. Yet he remained faithful to the Lord. Hebrews 11 speaks of people being tortured, faced with jeers and flogging, chained and put in prison.

They were stoned, sawed in two, put to death by the sword. People were destitute, persecuted, and mistreated. These people were all commended for their faith. In James 1:2 we read, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance; so that you may be mature, lacking in nothing."

Our Lord Jesus Christ experienced the ultimate suffering. "During all of the time he lived on earth, but especially at the end, Christ bore in body and soul the wrath of God against sin. "By his suffering as the only atoning sacrifice, he has redeemed our body and soul from everlasting damnation and obtained for us the grace of God, righteousness and eternal life"(Heidelberg Catechism Lords Day 15). God loved the world so much that he gave this wonderful gift to those who believe in him (See John 3:16).

If you are suffering in any way, look to Jesus Christ our Lord. We will see the goodness of the Lord in this life (Psalm 27:13). He also has a glorious future planned for those who trust and obey. Because of Christ, we can be joyful even when we are suffering. "Nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom 8:39).

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