



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

Of all the words one could use to describe God, the one most people would most likely not think of is the word suffering. For a God who suffers seems to be no God at all. After all, how can a supremely sovereign and all-powerful deity experience suffering? It sounds unjustly paradoxical if not utterly heretical. In fact, in theological terms this is referred to as the “impassibility” of God – that God cannot be subjected to suffering or experience injury of any kind or to any degree. For at the very moment that God would be weakened by suffering or wounded by injury He would cease to be God.

Yet, as we look at the torture and murder of Jesus Christ that is exactly what we see. Jesus Christ was unimaginably humiliated in His persecution and mutilated in His crucifixion. The Bible enlightens us to the stark reality that Christ was not only “despised and rejected by men” in His death, but also “pierced,” “crushed,” “wound[ed],” “afflicted,” and made to “suffer” – in a phrase Christ was “a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.” The prophet Isaiah, writing some 700 years before Jesus’ actual death, writes in prophetically vivid details the account of Jesus’ torture and death:

“[Jesus Christ] was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. ⁴Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. ⁵But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed. ⁶We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to His own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. ⁷He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter... ⁸By oppression and judgment He was taken away... He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people He was stricken. ⁹He was assigned a grave with the wicked... ¹⁰Yet it was the LORD'S will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer...” (Isaiah 53:3-10).

It is impossible to overstate the degree of Christ’s emotional and physical suffering. The torment and suffering Jesus endured in His flesh was excruciatingly painful and injurious – though being “impassible” in His deity was made “passable” in His humanity (cf. Phil.2:5-11). Did the Son of God really experience emotional pain and physical suffering? The Bible unambiguously declares, “Yes.” Although, in His physical body, Christ was tortured, beaten, injured and eventually murdered, He never ceased being fully and supremely God. This is surely a divine mystery incomprehensible to our human brains.

The greater question for us to wrestle with, however, is not “Did Christ suffer?” but “Why did Christ suffer?” To that question, the Bible resounds with abundant revelation – for that is the very heartbeat of the Gospel! This is the very question the apostle Paul addresses when, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he writes: “God made [Christ] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Cor.5:21). On the cross, Christ bore the penalty for the sins of all believers for all time. He was “pierced for our transgressions,” “crushed for our iniquities” and His “punishment” and “wounds” bore all our sins, so that we who believe in Him could be righteous before God. “Hallelujah! What a Savior!”

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David

Scripture Readings for the week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #38):

Numbers 21-24; 2 Chronicles 1-5; Psalm 111-113; Proverbs 25; Amos 5-9; John 19-21; Philemon

Recommended Reading:

“The Gospel’s Power and Message” by Paul Washer

Calendar of Events:

SAM's Luncheon
September 20
Women's Breakfast
September 22
Membership Class
October 3 & 10
Women's Weekend
October 5 & 6

Looking Ahead...

Elder Election
October 7
New Members/Attendee
Reception
November 11

For prayer requests,
email Amy Woodruff
at prayer@sbcnb.org
or call 541-404-0547

We're on the Web!
See us at:
sbcnb.org

Growth & Study.....

Men's Group Studies

Mondays ~

6:30pm "The Measure of a Man: Twenty Attributes of a Godly Man"
w/Jeff Etzel

Wednesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Joseph-A Man of Integrity and Forgiveness"
***Begins October 3rd**
w/Pastor David

Thursdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Behold Your God: Discovering the Unfathomable Greatness and Glory of God"
***Begins September 20th**
w/Pastor Tim

Fridays ~

6:30-7:30am "Book of Ecclesiastes"
w/Pastor David

Young Adults

Thursdays ~

7:00-9:00pm At Skyline
w/Pastor Tim 541-756-3311

Women's Group Studies

Mondays ~

6:30pm "Romans"
w/Renee Middleton (541-297-2500)

Tuesdays ~

6:30-7:30am *On break for the summer*
w/Loy Huntzinger (360-607-0022)

8:30am "Isaiah, the Lord Saves"
w/Beth Wallstrom (541-404-0112)

9:00am "Live Out His Love"
w/Lois-Elaine Rencehausen (541-751-3169)

1:00-2:15pm "Covenants"
***Begins September 25th**
w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

7:00-8:15pm "Covenants"
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Wednesdays ~

9:00-10:30am "Romans"
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

10:00am "Experiencing God's Peace"
w/Karla Fries (541-267-0139)

6:30-8:00pm "Romans"
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

Church News & Events.....

SAM's Potluck Luncheon ~ September 20th, Noon

For those ages 55 and up, please join us for lunch, worship and encouragement from the Word at our SAM's potluck. Dutch Mostert will be our guest speaker this month. We don't want to miss you—if you need a ride, contact the church office at least 24 hours in advance and we will arrange a ride for you.

Women's Breakfast ~ September 22nd, 8:30am

Ladies, please join us for a light breakfast, fellowship and devotions.

Membership Orientation Class ~ October 3rd & 10th

This is a two-week class at 6:30pm in the new classroom (Pastor David's old office) for those interested in membership. Please plan on attending both weeks. Contact Pastor David or the church office for more information and to register.

Women's Weekend ~ October 5th & 6th

Ladies are invited to join us for our women's weekend event. Register in the foyer after services September 16th, 23rd, & 30th. The cost is \$30 and includes three meals on Saturday.