

The Missing Privilege - Suffering

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Philippians 1.

B. There are two privileges in the life of the Christian: to believe in Christ and to suffer for Christ's sake.

II. God deliberately planned suffering in the life of his Son.

A. God perfected Jesus through suffering—this means he made him a complete person. (Hebrews 2:10)

B. By the way people react in the world they demonstrate incompleteness.

C. Suffering refines a person like the refining of gold.

III. Suffering as the source of our salvation. (Matthew 26:36)

A. Jesus' capacity for sorrow was like a bottomless well, but it filled up before the cross.

B. Jesus can relate to us in our sorrow and depression.

C. His sorrow was exceeding—he could have died from it.

D. Jesus was taking the cup of judgment for sinners upon himself for us. (Psalm 78:5)

E. God planned that suffering would be the source of our salvation.

IV. The strength of our salvation. (2 Corinthians 11)

A. When we are weak we are strong.

B. We find strength in the strength of another.

Application questions:

1. How would you counsel a believer facing some intense suffering?

2. How have you grown through suffering?

3. How can a person better prepare for suffering? Explain.
