



The Reality of Suffering and Persecution
Why Does a Holy God Allow Evil to Exist?

Part Four - 1 Peter 3:13-18

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 All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible Page Number is 1115.
 In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Word is printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.
 Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. • Pastor Joe's email: Joe@southreno.com

I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.

- Philippians 4:11, NASB95



Finding Sustaining Joy by Prioritizing Christ

Based on Philippians 1:12-15

1. Helps you transcend present circumstances.

Philippians 1:12–14, ESV -¹² I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel,¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.¹⁴ And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

2. Helps you transform personal relationships.

Philippians 1:15–18, NIV84 -¹⁵ It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.¹⁶ The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.¹⁷ The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.¹⁸ But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether

from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,

3. Helps you transfix future uncertainties.

Philippians 1:19–24, NASB95 -¹⁹ for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,²⁰ according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.²² But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose.²³ But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better;²⁴ yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.

Philippians 1:21, NCV -²¹ To me the only important thing about living is Christ, and dying would be profit for me.



If Christ is your singular priority, you can find sustaining joy regardless of your circumstances.

LIFE APPLICATION SECTION

When helping someone, remember The Three T's

Talk, Tears, and Time

How did this all start for you? (Basic facts)

What happened to you? (Talk)

What was that like? (Tears)

What do you think it's going to take for you to get through this? (Time)

- "In light of your (situation), who would encourage you the most if I could get them here right now?"
- "What experiences have you ever had in your life history that have proved useful to you at this time?"
- "Compared to how you first felt, how do you feel now?" or "What have you noticed about yourself since the event?" or, "How are you holding up now?"
- "What has been the most useful thing someone has done or said to you?"
- "What do you think God is saying to you at this time?"
- "What do you consider to be your biggest need right now?" (mental, spiritual, emotional, physical, medical, etc.)
- "What would you say to another person going through the very same thing?"