

The Lord's Servant (Pt. 1)

Colossians 1:24–29

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Main Idea: *A True Servant of the Lord is commanded to be a Joyful Sufferer!*

Outline: The First of 4 Practical Insights of the Lord's Servant that are true for every generation.

I. A Joyful Sufferer (v.24)

A. The Reality of Suffering

B. The Attitude in Suffering

C. The Motivations for Suffering

- 1. Suffering Assures We Belong to Christ (Jn 15:18)**
- 2. Suffering Brings Us Closer to Christ (Phil 3:10; 1 Peter 4:14)**
- 3. Suffering Conforms Us More to Christ's Character (Rom 5:3-5)**
- 4. Suffering Leads to a Future Reward (Rom 8:16)**
- 5. Suffering is Only Temporary (2 Cor 4:17)**
- 6. Suffering Enables Unbelievers to Hear the Good News and be Saved (2 Tim 2:10)**
- 7. Suffering Enables the Church to Hear the Truth and Be Edified (Col 1:24)**

Extending the Impact:

1. When you hear the words, “Joyful Suffering” what's the first thing that comes to your mind? Doesn't this term seem like an oxymoron?

2. “The words “Joyful Sufferer” seem to be a paradox—words that just doesn't seem like they should fit together” Based on verse 24, how do these two words apply to the servant of the Lord. Are there any other verses that support your answer?

3. Jesus told His disciples that He would suffer many things from the religious leaders. Our Lord also promised that his followers would experience suffering. Look up these passages and list ways that you or others may be experiencing suffering. (2 Tim 3:12; Hebrews 11:37)



4. How did Jesus and His disciples demonstrate being “Joyful Sufferers?” (Hebrews 12:2; Acts 5:40; Acts 16:25; 2 Cor 6:3)

5. Contrary to the teaching of many in the church today, following the Lord Jesus Christ is marked by suffering, not prosperity. What are some common hindrances to being joyful when facing trials?

“I have learned to kiss the waves that throw me up against the Rock of Ages.” (Charles Spurgeon)

6. Review the 7 motivations for suffering and discuss how suffering has taught you in your Christian Walk. Also, ask your Heavenly Father to better prepare you to receive his loving plan when He providentially introduces suffering in your life. (Hebrews 12:4-13)

