

Just A Minute! With Scripture

The King James Bible is used for all references. Verses may be made bold or numbered for emphasis.



What's in Your Viewfinder?

Our way of looking at life is developed over the years by the things we exalt in our mind. The unbeliever, and even a saint, can be quite disillusioned and indoctrinated by what is seen all around. Yet worldly views can be replaced by reading/believing God's Word, acquiring spiritual clarity: *"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."* (II Cor. 10:5)

As someone believes that Christ died on the cross for their sins, matures by spending regular time in the Word, and walks in sound doctrine, he will be transformed to see through God's viewfinder. Choices will be different as the foundation of what is believed has changed. This camera lens will see a new perspective: the mind of Christ. How does this help us in daily living?



1) Confident: When sufferings, fears, and doubts come, we won't see like the world, but will be fully persuaded that God provides what we need, strengthening our inner man to do all things: *"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."* (Phil. 4:13,19)

2) Immovable/Steadfast: We won't lose hope, nor be pulled aside, but stay fixed on spiritual Truths, knowing God can keep us focused: *"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed."* (II Cor. 4:8-9)

3) Prepared: The Rapture is around the corner, so we spiritually ready ourselves: *"...perilous times shall come."* (II Tim. 3:1) We will not be immobilized in fear, but as good soldiers, know the urgency of the time, motivated to be prepared to live by using our spiritual armor: *"The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light."* (Rom. 13:12)

Think on this: What's in your viewfinder? Are you discouraged, focused on the difficulties of this life, exalting problems to allow Satan to derail your Christian walk? Maybe you're looking through a tainted, law-oriented, worldly lens rather than by the grace view God desires. Choose to be confident in who you are in Christ, fixed on things above, His Word, and your eternal home in heaven. [Rejoice in all this!](#)

Do You Believe...
Nothing is Too Hard for God!

As we walk through this life, the sufferings and fears of this present time can take us by surprise and be grievous. Do you have confidence that God really hears when you pray and that the Word is powerful enough to help you? If not, study these issues for yourself. Find a mentor to help you trust and practically apply them.

Some saints have a destructive inner voice discouraging them from relying on God. For example: "That doesn't work!" "It is too hard to live this Christian life." or "I am just too discouraged to believe; I'm a lost cause."

When we "put on" (hearken to) fear, we will become discouraged and immobilized. These things drown out the Word in us. We need to "put on" God's thinking: *"But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."* (Romans 13:14) As we do this, we will rely on verses like: *"That no man be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto."* (I Thess. 3:3)

Expect trouble and fears, then be determined to press forward. Use God's unfailing resources: Prayer works the Word within you as the Spirit teaches, empowering you to walk faithfully. Be confident: *"For with God nothing shall be impossible."* (Luke 1:37)

Note: The world system Satan has designed can be quite formidable. What you believe will take your heart down a path; will it be to walk by faith? Be thankful regularly. Your God and Father is **always** on your side. *"..If God be for us, who can be against us...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."* (Rom. 8:31,37)
Nothing is too hard for our Great God!



Study-Devotional on Galatians Using Study Tools



This begins a new series progressing a saint through *Galatians* to assist in study and meditation. Questions below can help you study and meditate on the verses to gain understanding:

Verses to study this Month: *Gal. 1:1-2: "Paul, an apostle, (not of man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father who raised him from the dead;) And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia;"*

1. This opening salutation (greeting) tells us who wrote the book and to whom. Can you find both of these in the two verses? Does Paul do this in all his epistles?
2. What does the word, apostle mean? Who made Paul

an apostle, according to the verse? Who did he exclude? Is this important? What's learned from vs. 11-12?

3. Why does it specify that God is our Father? Can we relate to Him as our Father differently than as God?
4. Why did Paul mention "all the brethren" with him at the forefront of the letter? How could this help the Galatian Church accept this epistle of reproof?
5. At that time, would the "churches of Galatia" have had large Church buildings where they met or would they have met someplace else? Where?
6. How is this salutation the same or different than other epistles written by Paul?

Using Our Last Years Unto the Lord

According to Scripture, we are to keep in mind that the Rapture could be at any moment, but no one knows when. In a sense, we're all on the edge of eternity. *"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."* (1 Cor. 15:52) This article is especially relevant for those who are in the last stage of life (60+).

Therefore, let us reflect: Are we living life wisely according to what we believe and know? Are we really thankful each day for God's great mercy and grace? How will we use the time we have left here on earth? God says to redeem it: *"Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise. Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."* (Eph. 5:14-17) Time is like liquid gold, a most precious resource given to us freely by God.

Will we squander it or wake up to walk in the light of what we know until the Rapture? We will need to purpose to use time wisely, according to God's will. Otherwise, life's circumstances will overwhelm or distract us to waste this treasure. In order to use every moment of the time to God's glory, we need to gain God's perspective on what He desires for us while living on earth. A few verses that may help:

-1 Cor. 9:19,22: *"For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more...I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."*

-II Cor. 13:4: *"For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you."*

-Eph. 3:9-10: *"And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God."*

-Eph. 3:19: *"And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."*

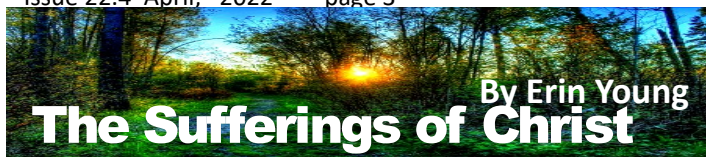
-Eph. 6:19-20: *"And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel. For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."*

-Phil.1:27: *"Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel."*

Reflect: Paul says, *"...now it is high time to awake out of sleep...put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof."* (Rom. 13:11,14)



What Will You Do?



The Sufferings of Christ

By Erin Young

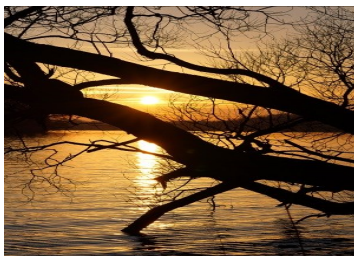
It's safe to say that as human beings we have all had suffering. These are tribulations and trials that we must go through. And sometimes we may see God as this distant, all powerful being that couldn't possibly understand what it's like to suffer. But we must remember, Jesus Christ was God in the flesh. And no man suffered more than He did. *"From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day."* (Matt. 16:21)



Christ not only suffered on the cross, but also suffered from the very beginning of His birth.

"And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him." (Matthew 2:13)

He also suffered earthly temptations just as any other human. *"Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread."* (Matthew 4:1-3) We must remember that not only did Christ suffer just as we do, but suffered all of these being totally innocent and free of sin. He did it all for our sakes. This should give us the hope and courage to live our lives daily for Christ, despite what this world throws at us.



On A Personal Side

Question & Answers

by Deborah Johnson

Question 1: Is it possible to be addicted to stress, anxiety, and/or bad relationships, which keeps chaos in my life?

Yes, practically, some people can become addicted to the very thing they hate. *"For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I."* (Rom. 7:15) Stress and anxiety can become familiar ways to live and are comfortable companions to fill a void, with a promise of excitement (adrenalin rush). This drives them to function under the law, by the works of the flesh, ever trying to conquer sin without God.

They *"mind"* (focus on) and exalt problems or things they fear, triggering emotions. *"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit."* (Rom. 8:5) This is choosing to *"put on"* (Rom. 13:14) stress or mental busyness, repeatedly making unwise decisions based on what is in their *"mind."* In this way, people set themselves up to be stressed by their own choices. In contrast, we are encouraged to *"mind"* the Word: *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."* (Phi. 4:8)

Meditating upon Scripture renews the mind, pushing out worldly/fleshly things to be spiritually healthy and wise. The replacement principle in *Romans 12:1-2* *"puts off"* ungodly thinking and works of the flesh, to *"put on"* godly, holy thinking: *"That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."* (Eph. 4:22-24)

Be in prayer and meditation, read the Word with thanksgiving and serve others. These are vital to allow God to take you off the unhealthy road of habitual stress, anxiety, chaos, reduce stressors to focus on others, and choose a godly, healthy life. Staying in sin is rebellion and can be an ungodly escape to avoid the Truth and make the changes needed. God's way is a choice to make different decisions to walk by faith as who you are in Christ. Prepare: stay in the Word and find a wise, godly mentor.

Question 2: I really don't see the purpose in prayer. Why do it?

Prayer builds our intimate fellowship with God our Father. Believers have a grace standing and access to God, but will we take advantage of this great privilege? *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."* (Rom. 5:1-2)

When we pray, we are talking to God, acknowledging His Godhead, being thankful, and humbled, knowing we need Him. We realize God is real and the only one that is always there, loving us unconditionally. He is the best listener and friend, who always understands perfectly and knows what we are dealing with before we say anything. Through the Word, He talks to us, teaching us what we need. How glorious!

Christian Life Coach Support Services
 (804) 519-1210 - lifecoachesdjbj@yahoo.com
 Website: Christianlifecoachsupport.squarespace.com

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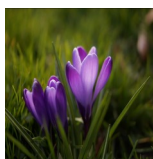
“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...” (Romans 3:24)



“My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word.” (Psalm 119:28)

Psalm 119 is known as the longest chapter in the Bible, but it is so much more. It contains 176 verses and nearly all make direct mention of God’s Word, with phrases such as: “thy word,” “thy precepts,” “thy judgments,” etc. It reads like an epic poem devoted to the author’s absolute reliance on Scripture. Every word testifies to the indispensable necessity of God’s Word in nourishing, comforting, and stabilizing the life of a believer. Unfortunately, most believers fail to recognize their need for daily intake of God’s Word.

The human body requires energy to function. We measure this in calories. One calorie of food energy is equal to 4.2 joules of electricity, so a daily diet of 2,000 calories produces about 8,400 joules. God created our bodies to be very efficient. For perspective, it takes 3,600 joules to run a 60-watt lightbulb for just 1 hour! Our bodies can run on even less, when necessary, but not without causing severe damage.



Think how much more efficient God has made the ‘new creature’ in Christ. There are untold millions who have been saved by grace, yet sadly have never taken in any more Scripture than was necessary to produce faith in the finished work of Christ. In many ways, the average Christian is either Scripturally anorexic (too little doctrine to sustain growth) or spiritually bulimic (spewing out doctrine before digestion can occur). When we neglect our daily need to be renewed by God’s word, we suffer from a sustained energy deprivation. We cannot grow and remain ‘babes in Christ’ (1 Cor 3:1-2). Let us determine within ourselves to daily read, study, meditate on, and grow by God’s word effectually working in us!

Christian Life Coach Support Services

Writers/Editors: Brian/Deborah Johnson
 Certified Christian Life Coaches
 (804) 519-1210 lifecoachesdjbj@yahoo.com
Website: Christianlifecoachsupport.squarespace.com

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