

◆ They will have a \_\_\_\_\_ salvation,  
*(Galatians 1:6-11)* "I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, {7} which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. {8} But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. ... {10} .. do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ. {11} But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man."

◆ There is an \_\_\_\_\_ to their doctrine,  
*(Mark 14:55-56)* "Now the chief priests and all the council sought testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none. {56} For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimonies did not agree."  
*(John 1:14)* "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."



*(2 Timothy 3:16-17)* "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, {17} that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."  
*(Ephesians 2:8-9)* "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, {9} not of works, lest anyone should boast."  
*(Acts 2:38)* "... Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

profoundly comforting"

Instead of continuing to search for why the devastating accident occurred, Joni has been forced to depend more heavily on the Lord and to look at life from a long-range perspective.

"She wrestled with God, yes, but she did not turn away from Him. . . . Joni now calls her accident a 'glorious intruder,' and claims it was the best thing that ever happened to her. God used it to get her attention and direct her thoughts toward Him"

Suffering has a way of showing how limited and weak our own resources really are. It forces us to rethink priorities, values, goals, dreams, pleasures, the source of real strength, and our relationships with people and with God. It has a way of directing our attention to spiritual realities—if we don't turn from God instead.

Suffering forces us to evaluate the direction of our lives. We can choose to despair by focusing on our present problems, or we can choose to hope by recognizing God's long-range plan for us (Rom. 5:5; 8:18-28; Heb. 11).



Taken from a booklet "Why Would a Good God Allow Suffering" De Haan

# Central Mountains Baptist Church

## JULY 24, 2016

### WHY SUFFERING?



### TO DIRECT US

When a person turns away from God, suffering often gets the blame. But strangely, suffering also gets the credit when people describe what redirected their lives, helped them to see life more clearly, and caused their relationship with God to grow closer. How can similar circumstances have such radically different effects on people? The reasons lie deep within the people, not the events.

"At first, Joni found it impossible to reconcile her condition with her belief in a loving God. . . . The turning to God was very gradual. A melting in her attitude from bitterness to trust dragged out over three years of tears and violent questioning" (pp.133-134).

A turning point came the evening that a close friend, Cindy, told her, "Joni, you aren't the only one. Jesus knows how you feel—why, He was paralyzed too." Cindy described how Jesus was fastened to the cross, paralyzed by the nails.

"The thought intrigued Joni and, for a moment, took her mind off her own pain. It had never occurred to her that God might have felt the same piercing sensations that now racked her body. The realization was



# I Peter: Overcoming Suffering Answers IV

1 Peter 3:15 commands us to be witness-ready. We suggest that there are two steps to being witness-ready:

1. Be ready to share your faith,
  - ◆ your testimony,
  - ◆ a gospel outline,
2. Be ready to answer common questions, v 13-15
  - ◆ Why should I believe the bible?
  - ◆ How can I know that there is a God? [previous times]



This morning we deal with two last questions:

## 1. Why does God \_\_\_\_\_?

There are 4 crucial responses to this issue:

- ◆ Show \_\_\_\_\_ for them,  
*(Luke 6:35-36)* *""But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. {36} "Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful."*



*(Ephesians 5:1-2)* *"Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. {2} And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."*

*(Psalms 22:24)* *"For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from Him; But when He cried to Him, He heard."*

- ◆ Assure them that God will \_\_\_\_\_ all \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_,

*(Deuteronomy 10:18)* *""He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, ..."*

*(Deuteronomy 32:4)* *"He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He."*

*(Psalms 89:14)* *"Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; ..."*

*(Revelation 15:3)* *"They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!"*

*(Revelation 20:11-15)* *"Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. {12} And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the*

*things which were written in the books. {13} The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. {14} Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. {15} And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."*

- ◆ Explain that God is \_\_\_\_\_ for them,  
Romans 2:4-5

*(2 Peter 3:9)* *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."*

*(Matthew 24:14)* *""And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."*

- ◆ Say, "so please don't \_\_\_\_\_ for what is our \_\_\_\_\_", Romans 8:20-23

*(Genesis 3:11)* *".. Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"*

*(Genesis 3:16-17)* *".. "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; .. {17} ..Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life."*



## 2. Well, what about \_\_\_\_\_?

There are 5 crucial facts in helping you witness to this group:

- ◆ They will have a different \_\_\_\_\_,
- ◆ They will have a different \_\_\_\_\_,

*(2 Timothy 3:5)* *"having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!"*

*(John 1:1)* *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*

*(1 Timothy 3:16)* *".. God was manifested in the flesh, ..."*

*(Hebrews 1:8)* *"But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; ..."*

- ◆ They will have an \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ authority,

*(Revelation 22:18-19)* *"For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; {19} and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."*

