

## Study 3 THE MINISTRY OF SUFFERING

Philippians 1: 22-30

Key verse v29

Why do people Suffer?

A. Because Of \_\_\_\_\_ - Gen chap 3

B. Because Of \_\_\_\_\_ - Ecc chap 4:1

"Again I looked and saw all the oppression that was taking place under the sun: I saw the tears of the oppressed and they have no comforter; power was on the side of their oppressors and they have no comforter".

C. Because they are \_\_\_\_\_ by Satan- Cor 4:4

"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

D. Because of Gods \_\_\_\_\_ - Psalm 120:1

"I call on the Lord in my distress, and he answers me"

Every Christian is characterized by two things:

\_\_\_\_\_ -

(John 14:1) "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

\_\_\_\_\_ -

(1 Peter 4:16) "However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name."

Open Doors Ministry data report last year approx \_\_\_\_\_ Christians were murdered,

\_\_\_\_\_ plus were detained or imprisoned,

\_\_\_\_\_ plus were kidnapped.

\_\_\_\_\_ churches and other religious facilities were destroyed.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ SUFFER BECAUSE THEY ARE \_\_\_\_\_

Philippians 1:29 "For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,

Philippians 1:28 "without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.

This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved and that by God."

2. \_\_\_\_\_ SUFFER BECAUSE IT'S A \_\_\_\_\_

Philippians 1:29 "For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,

3. \_\_\_\_\_ IS IT SUCH AN HONOR TO SUFFER AS A CHRISTIAN?

Philippians 1:29 suggests that there are two important reasons:

A. We "suffer for him".

Acts 5:41 "The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.- "for the Name";

Acts 9:16 "I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."- "for my name".

B. We suffer "on behalf of Christ."

The sufferings of Christ and of His people are one Acts 9:55 "Who are you, Lord?"

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,"

4. \_\_\_\_\_ IS GOD'S PURPOSE IN ALL THIS?

A. In order to test/develop our Faith.

B. In order to further the Gospel.

C. In order to make us homesick for Heaven.

Philippians 1:22-23

21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know!

23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;

"heaven gets sweeter everyday"