

COURAGE 12: COURAGE TO CLIMB YOUR HILL (Part 2) 2019-08-25

- Last week, we ended by saying that there's a kind of suffering that we'll all have to endure as Christians, if we're serious about becoming mature representatives of God's Kingdom.
- What kind of suffering do think is referred to in **COLOSSIANS 1:24?**, after all, hasn't Jesus done all the suffering for us already? And if so, in what ways must we still suffer?
- Often times a product is not fully developed, before it's released into the market. Then we get what's known as a "factory recall". A product needs to be returned to the factory, to have the fault fixed so that it can function as originally intended by the manufacturer.
- This happens when there's; insufficient **"product development"**
- The sufferings that Christians have to endure, is to ensure that we're ready to function as God originally intended us to.

JAMES 1:2-4 "Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for **great joy**. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your **endurance is fully developed**, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing."

- **Great joy**: who amongst us gets excited when troubles come and why on earth should we have great joy when they come?
- These trouble are the very things that will ensure we're fully ready and equipped to face the kingdom of darkness
- **Endurance is fully developed**: this is a process and comes over time. Sometimes filled with troubles and difficulties.
- Here are some scriptures relating to suffering, or rather **"product development"**:

COLOSSIANS 1:24(NLTSE) I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am **participating in the sufferings** of Christ that continue for his body, the church.

ROMANS 8:18(NTSE) Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later

2 TIMOTHY 3:12(NLTSE) Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution

1 PETER 4:1(NLTSE) So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have finished with sin.

1 PETER 4:12(NLTSE) Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you

1 PETER 5:8-9(NLTSE) Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are.

- God's end goal, is that the love of His son Jesus is fully developed in us:

2 PETER 1:5-7 “In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God’s promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with **patient endurance**, and patient endurance with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with **love for everyone**.”

- There’s a steady progression of Christian development in this passage of scripture:
- First of all, faith, then moral excellence, then knowledge, then self control, then patient endurance, then godliness, then brotherly affection, then the ultimate goal: **love for everyone**.

CARE GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Briefly recap your discussion questions from last week
2. In what ways do troubles and difficulties, make us ready to face the kingdom of darkness?
3. According to **2 PETER 1:5-7**, why would “love for everyone” make us ready to tackle the kingdom of darkness head on?
4. Where do you see yourself, in this developmental process and how do you plan to grow?