



Walking with God through Pain and Suffering Week 4; Chs 7-8

Week 4

“The modern church is producing passionate people with empty heads who love the Jesus they don’t know very well.”

– Voddie Baucham

The Growth of the Nones:

From 2007-2014, the number of adults in America who identified as Christian fell from 78% to 63%.

The number of adults identifying as “no religion” rose from 16% to 29%.

For Millennials, 40% identify as being “religiously unaffiliated.”

WHY?

- 1) Young people raised in the church are biblically illiterate and cannot give clear answers to the most basic doctrinal questions nor reasons for why they might hold to a particular belief.**
- 2) Young people cannot abide insincerity, and as older Christians are either unapologetically hypocritical or overly critical of those with issues it pushes this generation away.**
- 3) Young people find the mixture of right-wing politics, conservative morals and traditional Christianity offensive and self-defeating.**

Week 4

Why would we study a book like “Walking with God through Pain and Suffering”?

Week 4

“It seems to be quite disastrous that the idea should have got about that Christianity is an other-worldly, unreal, idealistic kind of religion that suggests that if we are good we shall be happy....

“On the contrary, it is fiercely and even harshly realistic, insisting that...there are certain eternal achievements that make even happiness look like trash.”

Dorothy Sayers; Creed or Chaos

Week 4

Creed or Chaos:

“Today you hear it even from many well-meaning Christians: "It doesn't really matter what you believe, so long as you're sincere." These pages demonstrate that such a "doctrineless Christianity" is not merely impossible; it's dangerous... (once you read the book) you'll agree with Sayers that dogma is no exercise in hair-splitting about insignificant matters; it's a vibrant window into the splendor of God's truth, a window that each Christian soul needs. Doctrine is vital to your faith....”

What does the Bible teach us about:

1- Ourselves

2- Others

3- God

4- Suffering

Week 4

From the study guide:

#s 1, 2 & 4

Week 4

What does the book of Revelation tell us about suffering (pp. 157-159)?

Week 4

- 1- Evil is “turned back on itself.”
- 2- The ultimate defeat of suffering and evil, which is the cause of suffering.
- 3- The cross and its final outcome at the end of history will not offer a full explanation of suffering, but it all provide an answer for suffering.
- 4- We will not merely be consoled; we will be restored.

Be careful what your eschatology is focused on!!

Week 4

Do you agree with the quote on page 163?

Does it help you deal with your suffering any differently/better?

Week 4

Haidt's Benefits of Suffering

More resilience

Strengthens relationships

Changes priorities and philosophies

Week 4

One of the ways God uses suffering is to bring glory to himself.

What is one key way God does this?

“Only if you make God matter the most - which means only if you glorify him and give him the glory - will you have a safe life.”

p 169

Week 4

Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. ²As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. ³For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. ⁴They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. ⁵But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

Week 4

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ...

So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

Week 4

Q and A??

Homework week 5/March 9

Chapters 9-10; Study Guide