

## SUFFERING (#1)

Teleiology is a theology term used to describe the study of spiritual growth maturity in CWL (Heb.5:14; Matt.4:4).

We are studying 12 church age doctrines that are essential for spiritual growth maturity.

Today we are studying the eighth Teleiology doctrine:

Grace	Positional Truth
Dispensations	Spiritual Gifts
Spirituality	The Will of God
The Faith Cycle	<b>Suffering</b>

Paul makes an eye-opening statement in our lesson text concerning the Church Age Believer living in the “Last Days” of human history:

(Heb.1:2) “In these last days has spoken to us in **His Son**, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.”

<b>This lesson will study three aspects of the introduction to SUFFERING</b>
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**As an introduction, keep in mind that Phil.1:27-30 is one Greek sentence or one complete thought.**

**In Phil.1:27, Paul used three different illustrations to introduce a doctrinal point.**

- |           |             |                |                     |
|-----------|-------------|----------------|---------------------|
| • Citizen | (politeuo)  | (p.m.impv.2pl) | [conduct]           |
| • Soldier | (steko)     | (p.a.ind.2pl)  | [standing firm]     |
| • Athlete | (sunathleo) | (p.a.ptc.nplm) | [striving together] |

**Paul gets to the doctrinal point in Phil.1:27-29:**

- “**For** (hoti) [reason or doctrinal point] to you (su / dplm) [advantage] it has been granted (charizomai / a.p.ind.3p) [grace privilege] **to** (def. article / nsm) [subject] for ( huper+abl of substitution) Christ’s sake, not only:
  - **to** (def. article / asn) **believe** (pisteuo) (p.a.infin) [noun] in Him, but also [object]
  - **to** (def. article / asn) **suffer** (pascho) (p.a.infin) [noun] for (huper+abl) His sake.” [object]

[**Not only** (believe) and **but also** (suffering) are used to set up the sequence of being **granted**.]

Three definite articles (**to**) (nsm; asn; asn) are used as pointers of hoti (**for**).

Two present infinitives (believe and suffer) are used as nouns as objects of granted (charizomai).

These infinitives are carrying the doctrinal point - **Suffering like salvation is a grace gift to the CWL.**

**Doctrinal point: Suffering like salvation has been granted as a grace privilege for every CAB.**

**Suffering is a major issue in the world.** We have recently seen many causes of suffering both natural and man – (Matt.24:6-8) “And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all these things are merely the beginning of **birth pangs**.” (Intensity of the Last Days)

## QUESTION: How did suffering in the world become a reality of life?

1. **Suffering in the world is related to Adam's original sin (AOS). The phrase "merely the beginning of birth pangs" comes from AOS related to Eve (Matt.24:8; Gen.3:16).**

Like death, suffering is universal because of AOS (Gen.2:17; Rom.5:12).

### Paul made a point regarding the earth:

(Rom.8:18) "For I consider that **the sufferings** (ta pathema) of this present time is not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

(Rom.8:20) "For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it."

(Rom.8:22) "For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now."

(Rom.8:23) "And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, **the redemption of our body.**"

2. **Paul used an interesting Greek word for suffering and related it to the Day of Redemption (Rom.8:18-25).**

### Suffering for sin (First coming of Christ)

(Rom.8:18) "For I consider that **the suffering (ta pathema / nplm)** [root is pascho] of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us." (2 Cor.1:5; Heb.2:9)

The word Passover (**pascha**) was part of shadow Christology of Jesus Christ as the Passover lamb (1 Cor.5:7).

The suffering of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ is called **pascho** (def. article / a.infin / noun) in Acts 1:3.

### Day of Redemption (Second Coming of Christ)

(Rom.8:23) "And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, **the redemption (ten apolutrosis) of our body.**"

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." (Eph.4:30)

3. **Therefore Jesus Christ came into the world to redeem mankind from the hopelessness of the suffering under AOS (1 Pet.1:10-12, 18-19; 1 Thess.4:13).**

(Heb.2:9) "But we do see Him who has been made for a little lower than angels, namely, **Jesus**, because of the **suffering of death** crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone."

(1 Pet.5:9) "But resist him (the devil) (Rom.5:8), firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world."

**In Phil.1:27-30, the Philippian church was experiencing suffering for Christ's sake like Paul and Silas had suffered 10 years earlier for preaching the gospel to them (Acts 16:19-24) [Jail ministry].**