

GREAT CONFLICT OF SUFFERING (Part #2)

Great Conflict of Suffering for Christ has two themes. In (Part #1), we studied the theme - “Accept undeserved suffering Joyfully” (Heb.10:34).

We studied two important New Covenant doctrines that are essential for “Accepting undeserved suffering Joyfully”:

- The Filling ministry of the Holy Spirit (Eph.5:18; Gal.5:16; 22-23)
- Spiritual growth / maturing by use of the faith cycle (2 Cor.5:7; James 1:2-4).

<u>Four points</u> on the theme of “Only One Back-up Plan”

1. God has the Only Back-up Plan for those under great conflict of undeserved suffering.

It is called the **GRACE of GOD**

(1 Pet.4:19) “So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good”.

What happens when **All back-up plans gone: No savings, No investments, No insurance, and No credit for a loan.** It will only get worse when the 5th cycle hits Israel.

- **God’s Promise:** “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.” (Heb.13:5b)
- **God’s Promise:** “No temptation (peirasmos/ testing) has overtaken you **but such as** is common to man; and **God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide a way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.**” (1 Cor.10:13)

2. All New Covenant spiritually advancing believers will suffer for Christ in the world.

The Church is a great target in the intensification of the Angelic Conflict.

(Phil.1:29) “For to you it has been granted for Christ’s sake, **not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake.** Experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me.” (James 4:7)

This is because every Church Age Believer becomes identified with Jesus Christ at the moment of salvation. Remember, Satan tried to kill Jesus at birth (Matt.2:1-12).

Satan’s strategy was to kill Jesus Christ, but not by way of the crucifixion, burial, and resurrection (Gal.3:8; Matt.4:1-11; 16:21-23).

(1 John 3:8b) “The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devils.”

(Rom.16:20) “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.” (Second Coming)

3. Jesus Christ set the example for Undeserved Suffering in the Angelic Conflict.

NOTE: Count the number of times **hate and world** are used in (John 15:18-25). “Indeed, all who live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” (2 Tim.2:13)

(Heb.5:8) “Although He was a Son, he **learned obedience** from the things which He suffered.” (Phil.2:8)

(1 Pet.2:21-22) “For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth.” (Luke 23:34; Acts 7:54-60/) [Stephen] (Eph.1:11-14)

(2 Cor.1:5) “For **just as** the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, **so also** our comfort is abundant through Christ.” (Gal.1:22-24)

4. God has “Only One Back-up Plan” for New Covenant believers under Great Conflict of Suffering.

It is important that each of us believe God’s Grace is SUFFICIENT (John 8:32) [Truth] (Heb.10:34).

(2 Cor.12:9) “And He said to me, ‘**My grace is sufficient for you**, for power is perfected in weakness.’ Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.”

BUT NOT “CRUSHED”, “DESPAIRING”, “FORSAKEN”, NOR “DISTROYED”!

(2 Cor.4:8-9) “We are afflicted in every way, **but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.**” (2 Cor.12:9)

The Churches of Smyrna and Philadelphia were being persecuted by the “Synagogue of Satan.” (95 AD).

(Rev.2:9-10) ‘I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

(Rev.3:9-10) Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie - I will make them come and bow down at your feet and make them know that I have loved you. Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole ^[e]world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

This is what the writer of Hebrews is warning in 64 AD. It started with the crucifixion of Jesus Christ which took place in (30 AD).

Of the 7 churches, they were the only two who were spiritually mature.

They were the only two given A+ on the Church Report Card by the head of Churches, Jesus Christ

(Eph.1:20-23) “which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. **And He put all things in subjection under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all**”.