

“The Theology of Suffering: Discipleship and Suffering/Persecution (1)” (Matthew 16:24)

Message Series on the Theology of Suffering: What the Bible Says about Suffering and Persecution for Believers

I. The Calling to “Discipleship”

- A. Connecting Suffering and Persecution to Discipleship (Matthew 16:24)**
- B. Suffering of the Present Leads to Glory in the Future (Matthew 5:10-12)**

Jesus Himself was No Exception (Hebrews 12:2)

II. Biblical Basis for Suffering/Persecution

- A. Origin of Suffering/Persecution (Genesis 3:1): Satan**
- B. The Fall of Man: The Curse of Conflict and Suffering (Genesis 3:15-19)**
- C. Persecution of the Righteous by Evil Men in the Old Testament**
 - 1. Jesus Denounced Religious Leaders for Persecuting God’s Servants (Matt 23:30; 34-36)**
 - 2. Old Testament Examples**

III. Jesus’ Farewell Speech

- A. A Forewarning (John 15:18-21)**
- B. The Assurance**
 - 1. The Badge of Suffering for Jesus is an Indication that one Belongs to Him (John 15:19)**
 - 2. Stand Firm and Not be Confused (John 16:1-3): God’s Sovereign Control**
 - 3. Comfort: Inner Peace in the Midst of Trouble (John 16:31)**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: “Only the Suffering God can Help”

**Know the Suffering Savior who Loves you to the End, and
Find Comfort and Strength to Live a Life of Settled Peace in the Storm**

Trust Him!

Key terms: Theology of Suffering; Discipleship; Suffering/Persecution; Suffering and Glory; Badge of Suffering; Inner Peace