

Suffering and Pastoral Work

A training

I. Suffering: _____

A. **Jn.11:33-37**; Jesus wept at the tomb of Lazarus.

B. **Rom 9:2/Phil.4:4-7**. Paul grieved over his friends and loved ones, even though he exhorts us to be joyful in the Lord.

II. Suffering: _____

III. Four realities about long-term suffering that help us minister in a fallen world. Affliction is:

A. _____ Jn 16:33

1. The Cross is the Paradigm.

B. _____ Gen 50:20; Rom 8:28; Matt 10:28-31; Eph.1:11; Acts 2:23; 4:28

1. The Cross is the Paradigm

C. _____ 1 Peter 2:19-25; 2 Cor 4:6-12; Isa 53; Heb.12:1-3; Jas 1:2-4; Rom 5:1-11

1. The Cross is the Paradigm. When we suffer, _____.

2. _____: We grow in ways that we cannot when life is easy.
Jas 1:2-4; 2 Cor.12:7-10.

3. _____. It benefits others when we face suffering and
continue to walk with the Lord. Col.1:24

D. _____ Not simply compensated. Rom. 8:18-28; Luke 18:28-30; 2 Cor. 4:16-18.

1. The Cross is the Paradigm. The wisdom of the Cross focuses on _____.

E. *Pastoring is* _____

IV. Most Christians do not deeply believe the four things we have just discussed. The result is that when trauma strikes and does not “respond” to the first prayers and attempts to “fix” it, they can fall into one of four false intuitions.

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

D. _____

V. Why is this important for pastors to know?

A. _____.

B. _____

VI. All of this points to one crucial reality: God has sovereignly and lovingly...

A. The Cross of Christ is the Paradigm.

VII. How should we minister to intractable pain? Four Suggestions:

- A. _____.
- B. _____: Expect people to have all sorts of responses to trauma.
1. _____ are very common symptoms of the above assumptions.
 2. _____ are profoundly healing.
- C. _____: sharing the pain as much as possible.
- D. _____: Praying for healing and restoration is always appropriate.

VIII. Always remembering in our own hearts, the _____:

- A. There is _____ for this world and the next. Phil.4:4-7
- B. There is _____, if not in this world, then in the next. Rom.12:17-21
- C. There is _____. He understands us better than we understand ourselves or him. Heb.4:15
- D. There is _____. A Christian cannot be separated from God's gracious love. Rom.8:28-39