

Tried and True

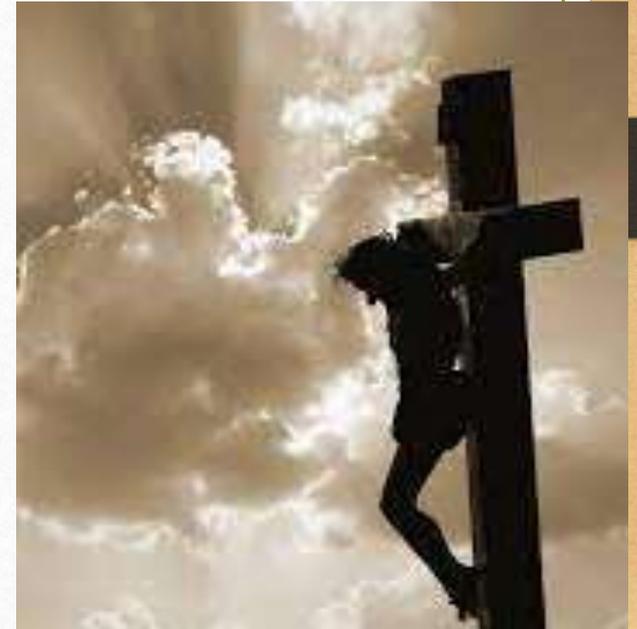
Hagerstown Church of Christ

07-Nov-2021

A. Jesus came to Suffer

Part of the Plan – Critical to the Gospel!

- **Matthew 16:21** — From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and **suffer** many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be **killed**, and on the third day be **raised**.”
- **Matthew 17:12** — But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also the **Son of Man** will certainly **suffer** at their hands.
- **Acts 17:3** — explaining and proving that it was **necessary** for the Christ to **suffer** and to rise from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ.”



B. We (also) came to **Suffer** (1/2)

Realize you are in “good company”!



- Hebrews 11:33-38 — who through faith **conquered** kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, **escaped** the edge of the sword, were **made strong** out of weakness, became **mighty** in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received back their dead by resurrection.
- Some were **tortured**, refusing to accept release, so that they might **rise again to a better life**. Others suffered **mocking** and **flogging**, and even **chains** and **imprisonment**. They were **stoned**, they were **sawn in two**, they were killed with the **sword**. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, **destitute**, **afflicted**, **mistreated**—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

B. We (also) came to **Suffer** (2/2)



As they say, “It comes with the territory”!

- Mt 5:11-12 — Blessed are you when others **revile** you and **persecute** you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **Rejoice** and be **glad**, for your **reward is great in heaven**, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Suffering is Just Part of the Fallen World



- **Genesis 3:17b-19a** — cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; **thorns** and **thistles** it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the **sweat** of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground,
- **Matthew 13:20-21** — As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when **tribulation** or **persecution** arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.

Suffering is all over the New Testament!

English	Greek	Freq	English	Greek	Freq
Rejected	apodokimazO	9x	Punishment, vengeance	ekdikEsis	9x
Suffer dishonor	atimazO	7x	Punishment, chastisement, torment	kolasis	2x
Suffer with	sympaschO	2x	Punish, chastise	kolazO	2x
Suffer	pathEtos	1x	Severe Test	dokimE	7x
Suffering, affliction	pathos	3x	• Much, large magnitude or quantity	polys	
Sufferings	pathEma	16x	Often Tested	dokimazO	22x
Suffer	paschO	42x	• Many times, frequently, often	pollakis	
Affliction, afflicted	thlibO	10x	Tested, proved, tried, acceptable	dokimos	7x
Tribulation	thlipsis	45x	Failed test, rejected, worthless	adokimos	8x
Reproach	oneidos	1x	Testing	dokimion	2x
Reproaches/censure	oneidismos	5x	Trial, test, proof	peirasmos	21x
Reproached, revile	oneidizO	9x	Subject to test, examine, trial	peirazo	38x
Punishment	dikE	3x	Put to the test, sound, tempt	ekpeirazO	4x

English	Greek	Freq
Fiery trial	pyrOsis	3x
Suffer pain, grief, sorrow	lypE	16x
Patient endurance	hypomonE	32x
Distress	stenochOria	4x
Persecuted, malignant pursuit	diOkO	45x
Persecution, including:	diOgmos	10x
• Famine, want of grain	limos	12x
• Nakedness, want of clothing	gymnotEs	3x
• Danger, peril	kindynos	9x
• Sword, dagger, large knife	machaira	29x

The number of words, and number of times they are used, provide an indicator of the prevalence of **trials, hardship, struggles, and challenges!**

So, *Engineer* Your Life

- In systems or software engineering, “testing” is used to improve a system
- Two major concepts have evolved that can be applied to your life as well:
 - **Verification**
 - Does the system meet the requirements?
 - Did we build the system **Right**?
 - **Validation**
 - Do the requirements meet the users’ needs?
 - Is it fit for use?
 - Did we build the **Right** system?
- **Quality** has to be built into systems (**and into our lives**)

Management: Planned vs. Actual

Leadership: Mission, Vision, Objectives

Plan for the Worse Scenarios

- I Peter 4:12 — Beloved, do not be **surprised** at the fiery **trial** when it comes upon you to **test** you, as though something strange were happening to you.

Expect hardship and pain!

It is not a matter of **if**, but **when**!

BE PREPARED!

Siempre Listo



Build for Endurance and Resilience!



- I Cor 3:12-13 — Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by **fire**, and the fire will **test** what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.
- Build with the correct materials and priorities!
- The only way to know it works it to **test it!**
- Ask God...
 - What are you trying to teach me?
 - What are you preparing me for?

Trials to Purify and Prove

- **Proverbs 17:3** — The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, and the LORD tests hearts.
- **2 Corinthians 13:5-7** — **Examine** yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. **Test** yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test. But we pray to God that you may not do wrong—not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed.
- **1 Peter 1:7** — In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the **tested genuineness** of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is **tested by fire**—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.



Is it a Bug?

Is the “test” finding something in my life that should not be there?

Is the trial punishment or correction? Is God removing some weeds?



- **Isaiah 48:10** — Behold, I have **refined** you, but not as silver; I have **tried** you in the furnace of affliction. For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.
- **Isaiah 51:17** — Wake yourself, wake yourself, stand up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the LORD the cup of his **wrath**, who have drunk to the dregs the bowl, *the* cup of staggering.
- **Jeremiah 9:7** — Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: “Behold, I will **refine** them and **test** them, for what else can I do, because of my people? Their tongue is a deadly arrow; it speaks deceitfully; with his mouth each speaks peace to his neighbor, but in his heart he plans an ambush for him. Shall I not **punish** them for these things? declares the LORD, and shall I not **avenge** myself on a nation such as this?”

Rejoice When You Pass the Test!

- Romans 12:12-14 — **Rejoice in hope**, be patient in **tribulation**, be **constant in prayer**. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. **Bless** those who persecute you; **bless** and do not curse them.
- Revelation 1:9 — I, John, your **brother** and **partner** in the **tribulation** and the kingdom and the **patient endurance** that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.
- Acts 5:41-42 — Then they left the presence of the council, **rejoicing** that they were counted worthy to **suffer dishonor** for the name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they **did not cease teaching** and **preaching** that the Christ is Jesus.



So What Do The Trials Tell Us?

- Search for the purpose of trials!
- Is the ladder you are climbing leaning against the right wall?
- Are you building the right life (the eternal one)?
- And are you building our life right?
- Do you have your “Bug Out Bag”; are you prepared, investing in the right tools?
- Are you passing the tests?
 - Are there defects being removed?
 - Are we gaining confidence?
- Are you rejoicing in tribulation (and your passed tests)?

