



## Suffering with Christ

*Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. – 2 Cor. 4:17*

Paul looked upon his sufferings as a part of the sufferings of Christ, as though Christ's sufferings did not end upon the Cross, but were completed in the sufferings of His disciples. Paul wrote: I now "rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church."

Happy are we if we can receive all suffering in that spirit, whether it be suffering of body, mind, or soul. It will then work for our good and through us for the good of others, whether or not we can understand how it is to do so.

It will purge us of vanity, deepen us in humility, enlarge us in sympathy, and make us more fruitful in the graces of the spirit.

*How bitter that cup no heart can conceive,  
Which He drank quite up that sinners might live!  
His way was much rougher and darker than mine—  
Did Christ thus suffer, and shall I repine?*

*Since all that I meet shall work for my good,  
The bitter is sweet, the medicine food;  
Though painful at present, 'twill cease before long,  
And then, oh, how pleasant the conqueror's song!*

– JOHN NEWTON

Col. 1:24