

Call to Worship

Psalm 73:23-26

*Nevertheless, I am continually with you;
you hold my right hand.*

*You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will receive me to glory.*

Whom have I in heaven but you?

And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

*My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*

Text Reading

Job 22:21-26

*“Agree with God, and be at peace;
thereby good will come to you.*

*Receive instruction from his mouth,
and lay up his words in your heart.*

*If you return to the Almighty you will be built up;
if you remove injustice far from your tents,*

*if you lay gold in the dust,
and gold of Ophir among the stones of the torrent-bed,
then the Almighty will be your gold
and your precious silver.*

*For then you will delight yourself in the Almighty
and lift up your face to God.*

Passage

1 Peter 4:12-19

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. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And

*“If the righteous is scarcely saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”*

¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

Types of suffering

1. Natural suffering
2. Unjust suffering
3. Just suffering

Why do you suffer?

1. Refine you
 - a. *Isaiah 48:9-11* ⁹“For my name’s sake I defer my anger;for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you,that I may not cut you off.¹⁰ Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver;I have tried you in the furnace of affliction.¹¹ 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.
 - b. Our faith is made more pure and strengthened by affliction
2. Future Glory
 - a. *Romans 8:18-23* **18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. **19** For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. **20** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope **21** that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. **22** For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. **23** And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.
 - b. Our ability to have joy in the midst of our suffering has a direct relationship to the relationship we have with God.

How do you suffer?

As one who chooses sin? As one who chooses Christ?

1. **Unprepared vs. Prepared**
2. **Shame vs. Confidence**
3. **Selfish vs. Humble**
 - a. *Philippians 2:3* **3** Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.
4. **Fear vs. Trust**
 - a. *Psalm 31:5* Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.
5. **Anger vs. Joy**

When all comfort, happiness and security is stripped away; in the midst of hardship, we see who our pre imminent treasure is.

Benediction

Matthew 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..."