

Acts # 89 “Citizen’s Arrest”

Acts 22:1-3; Acts 5:27-42; Ephesians 4:26-29

Why is suffering for Jesus Christ so prized in the Bible? Because it’s following His example which is to live for love and die for hatred if necessary.

Paul was quite different from practically everyone else around him to include fellow believers in Jesus Christ because he wanted unity among Jewish and Gentile believers as all are members of the body of Christ.

While the Christian life is characterized by happiness, peace and contentment; that doesn’t mean it’s a life devoid of trouble.

And suffering is a warning of one of two things; that either we’re doing something wrong or we’re on a path to greater blessings from God.

Suffering is a God-ordained authority designed to challenge us to grow in grace by properly using our invisible spiritual bank accounts as we fulfill the plan of God.

As a guardian in our lives, suffering is designed by God for our good because it restrains us from sin, human good and evil, just as our parents did.

Suffering never leaves us the way it found us; so, as a result of suffering, we are either better or worse for it; when we suffer, we’ll never be the same again after it.

And if, during suffering, we react and complain in arrogance, with bitterness, vindictiveness or self-pity, we become losers in life.

We are the King’s kids and we have the right to live inside the King’s palace under the enabling power of the King’s Holy Spirit resulting in our momentum from processed biblical truth and then at that point, we understand that all our suffering is designed for our blessing.

In other words, if we’re within the palace walls when the suffering hits, we know it’s designed for our blessing.

So, while in fellowship in the King’s palace, it’s clear to us that any suffering that comes our way is designed for our blessing, our wisdom, for the appropriation of our common sense and for the correct application of biblical truth to any and every situation.

Whenever an unbeliever rejects God’s established laws or a believer rejects biblical truth or God’s established laws, he falls into the satanic trap of anti-Christ influence.

So, beware of Satan’s strategy: He accuses believers of sin, therefore of being under his control but don’t worry, Jesus Christ, our defense Attorney, defends us in Heaven.

Satan tries to neutralize our consistent Bible study and application through: worry, fear, anxiety, mental attitude sin reaction to world-wide disasters, getting us to become disobedient

to the Word and church leadership authority involved in teaching it and ignoring the biblical truth

we've learned which destroys our focus for future victory.

Paul has complete control of himself because he fully understands the issue of the Gospel and those in Paul's audience have no control over themselves because they do not understand the issue, so Luke conveys the idea of Paul standing up with courageous poise, looking right at them giving it to them straight up.