

John 298 “Trials And Tribulations” John 18:19-22

In our passage, Peter has made a poor decision in not following God’s protocol for a successful life.

And as a result, he suffers greatly for it and by application, we are responsible for most of our own suffering but what is the solution for this self-induced misery?

We must reverse the trend so rather than making bad decisions from the start without consulting God’s opinion, we must begin making good decisions which logically have good results.

When a believer prays for himself or asks others to pray for him because he’s hurting from his poor choices, he’s most likely hoping his or their prayers will achieve what they were never designed to.

And if he’s like most people, he just wants his suffering to end, wishing that God would somehow suspend His law of free-will responsibility this one time and change His entire plan for the human race by miraculously removing his pain with little or no lesson learned.

We must be diligent not to handicap ourselves although yes, we all periodically mess up and sometimes badly but only losers allow past failure to hinder their current progress in the experiential plan of God.

Paul’s example for us is that we not only forget our past failures but at the same time, stretch or strain toward the goal, prize or finish line in the Christian life.

Serious students or disciples of Jesus Christ represent a special group because once they understand God’s objective for them, they do not waver, they organize their lives and priorities around glorifying God to the maximum!

Paul is urging all of us to join him in the system of thinking that leads to most directly reaching our goal of spiritual maturity.

We have a spiritual life as a part of our God-given invisible, inexhaustible savings account and whether or not we take advantage of these free gifts depends on our values and our free-will decisions related to those values.

The Lord Jesus disturbs the religious Jewish leaders’ hypocritical power over the people, so naturally, they want desperately to be rid of Him.

While Isaiah 53:2 says: He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him; nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him; that was concerning His outward appearance which was beaten beyond recognition, yet His faultless character is more beautiful than we can even imagine!

The Jews are afraid of Jesus, Pilate is afraid of the Jews and as always, Jesus is afraid of no one. We have the best in the universe, God incarnate and the worst in humanity, so who will they choose?

It’s amazingly ironic that the Jewish leaders violated their own traditions to judge the Lord Jesus for violating their traditions.

The purpose of interrogation is to determine the facts regarding innocence or guilt, not to entrap.

For three years, the Lord Jesus taught biblical truth clearly and openly.

Jesus is telling the high priest how to judge a case!