

Keeping First Things First

Week Eight: Adversity Advantage

Series Verse

"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ."

Colossians 2:8 (NIV)

"Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. ²⁵ I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— ²⁶ the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. ²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

Colossians 1:24-27 (NIV)

1. Joy and _____.

"Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you..."

Colossians 1:24a (NIV)

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds..."

James 1:2 (NIV)

"But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed."

1 Peter 4:13 (NIV)

"... They called in the apostles and had them flogged. Then they ordered them never again to speak in the name of Jesus, and they let them go. ⁴¹ The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus."

Acts 5:40-41 (NLT)

* **Joy:** _____.

* **Suffering:** _____
_____.

2. Reasons to _____.

A. Suffering is P_____.

"I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the Word of God in its fullness—²⁶ the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. ²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

Colossians 1:25-27 (NIV)

B. Suffering is E_____.

* **Evidence of** _____.

"In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."

2 Timothy 3:12 (NIV)

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:10 (NIV)

* **Evidence of** _____.

"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.

¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you."

John 15:18-19 (NIV)

3. _____ Joy.

"...and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church."

Colossians 1:24b (NIV)

"You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed."

Psalms 139:16 (NLT)

"I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead."

Philippians 3:10-11 (NIV)

* **P**_____ **for Help.**

* **I**_____ **Cause.**

* **E**_____ **the benefits.**