

## Hebrews 5.8

### Suffering and Obedience

This passage has been looming large on my mind, I have dreaded it because I have feared I cannot do it justice. I know I cannot do it justice, I know that I will miss something important, emphasize something wrong, or slide off course and get lost in the weeds. But we have arrived at it, and I must preach it or skip it... so, consider the thought that Christ had to learn obedience! And not just that He had to learn obedience but that He had to learn it by suffering, and what is more, He was PERFECTED by this obedience that He learned... we will not finish this today, but if God is willing we will make a good beginning.

#### I. CHRIST LOVED –

This was not His own cost, His own price His own sin. IT was ours. He was a SON, He was THE SON. Focus of sonship was His divine nature

a. Here we lose ourselves in wonder love and grace as we consider that all He did He did for us...

- b. Here we find ourselves - made new in the beauty of His love and made like unto Him in being freed TO love because we are secure in who and in whose we are. "Did not consider equality something to be grasped"

## II. CHRIST GAVE

- a. Being a Son did not exempt Christ from suffering
- b. No particle in the greek - although He was Son, emphasis on the singular, He was THE Son, the only Son, the particular special child of the Father. This is carried from 1.2~ "His Son"
- c. Although - the argument being formed is this - being a Son SHOULD exempt Him in our mind. It seems only right and proper that He would not have to suffer if He was indeed the beloved Son. But there is a startling contrast here that is by it shown to us as incredibly important.
- d. Thus neither excellence in self - Being God made flesh, nor excellence in position, being the

Son of the Most High God, exempted Him from suffering. So also should we understand that we ought not expect life to be easy, free from suffering or otherwise tame just because we are the people of God. He only ignores those He has cast off. As His children, He takes particular care to make sure that we are being properly formed.

Proverbs 13.24

### III. CHRIST OBEYED

- a. Always - His life was fully and completely HOLY.
- b. Particularly in His agony and death

### IV. CHRIST SUFFERED –

John 18:1-2

- a. No place exempted -  
Note that Jesus was taken in a place that had always been a place of comfort, rest and joy to Him. It was a place where when He was around

Jerusalem He and His disciples often met. It was a precious place to Him. Even our most treasured things can be places of torment when we are being taught that which we must know

- b. Mindful of the coming terror - Note His agony –

### Matthew 26:36–46

- i. Matthew tells us that He was -
  1. sorrowful and deeply distressed -
  2. My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death
  3. O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me;

### Mark 14:32–42

- ii. Mark adds - troubled and deeply distressed

### Luke 22.39-46

- iii. Luke gives us the most powerful details -

Luke 22:43–44 (NKJV) 43 Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. 44 And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

c. And this is all just the agony of contemplating enduring the wrath of God. It is important to note that it was not the cross that Jesus feared. It is laughable to think that Jesus would quail at anything man could do to Him... then call us to stand and die well... no what He trembled at is the impending unleashing of the wrath of God upon Him for the sins of His chosen people!!

d. The cause hereof was our sin, and the just desert of it; for he became our surety, and took upon him our debt.

2 Cor. 5:21; In this respect it is said that he was 'made sin for us,'

Isa. 53:3, and that he has 'born our griefs, and carried our sorrows,

Gal. 3:13.' it is said that he was 'made a curse for us,'

e. While it is true that I have said that even one drop of Jesus' blood would have been sufficient to redeem all of a million creations, so great and wonderful is He, I must confess that this is pure hyperbole; for the God of the universe does nothing needless. And the degree of Christ's suffering must show us the real horror of our sin. This terrible reality is the real and necessary price of our redemption.

## **V. CHRIST LEARNED –**

There are 3 ways to "learn"

- a. To incidentally acquire knowledge previously not possessed - "Oh, I never knew that"
- b. To be formally taught something and to be changed by it - I worked to acquire this knowledge, went to school, was taught and

tested and have the certificate to show it - again, something is gained that was not previously possessed.

c. To acquire *experience* of something you already knew. - It is plain that there is no knowledge God does not possess (however the fact of someone who is perfect yet suffers as an evildoer is something new under creation) thus this third kind of learning is what must be in view here.

## VI. CHRIST OBEYED FULLY –

By passive obedience He learned active obedience

a. Obedience therefore is manifested two ways:

i. By doing what is required,

**Romans 6:16.**

ii. By enduring what is laid upon you

**Philippians 2:8**

- b. In this latter sense is the word here used; for Christ by experience found that it became him willingly and patiently to bear what his Father was pleased to lay upon him.
- c. Thus patience under a cross is a kind of obedience; it is a great degree of obedience, the highest and supreme point of obedience: 'Unto you it is given, not only to believe on Christ, but also to suffer for his sake,' saith the apostle,

**Philippians 1:29.**

To believe is a great part of obedience, but to suffer is even a larger part of it all.

- d. Though the bearing of a burden may be a matter of necessity, yet a patient and willing bearing is a point of obedience. In this is shown a difference between God's children and others. By our willing submission we show that we prefer the good pleasure of God before our own pleasure, before our own ease, liberty, and even life itself, if God call us to lose our life.



- i. Let us not therefore think it sufficient that in peace, health, prosperity, we have yielded some active obedience to God's will for doing this or that, but let us also be ready to yield passive obedience. This is commanded

Matthew 16:24

2 Timothy 2:3

- ii. This has been performed by God's servants,

Hebrews 11:27

- iii. God has commended it in them that have done it,

Revelation 2:3

- iv. and promised a great reward,

Matthew 5:11-12

- v. Here we have opportunity to minister the grace we have received unto others in need... Part of

the use of this experience is that we also learn to help others by our suffering.

## 2Corinthians 1.4

### VII. Christ Taught

We need affliction to teach us submission - this may be the hardest lesson we will ever learn, but we do not obey as we ought. We do not render to God all that He deserves from us EVER! And our suffering is a powerful tool in His hand to teach us who He is and what we are. Ultimately it teaches us that we are sons.