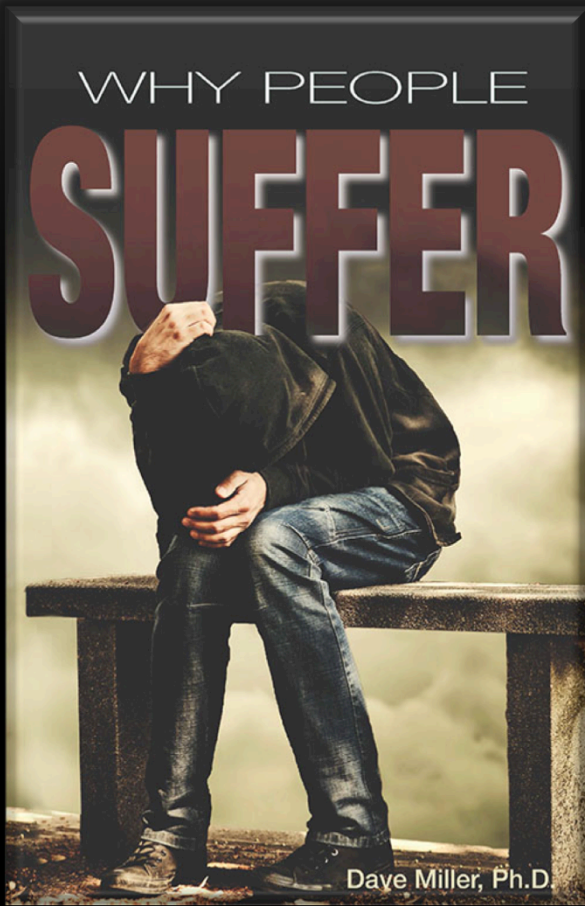
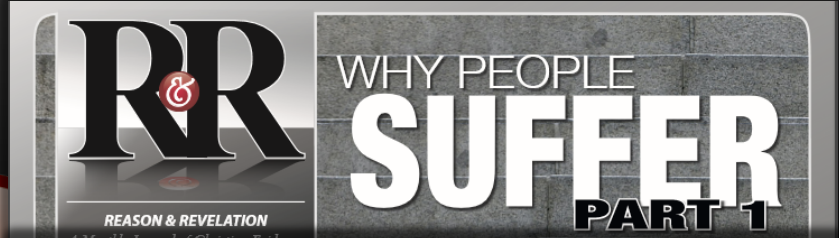


Why Do People
Suffer?

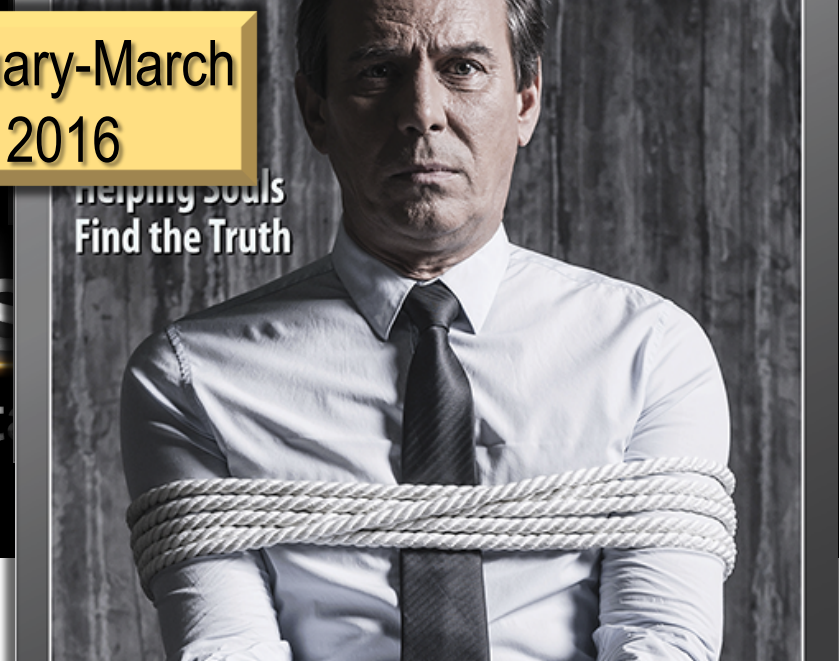


\$6



January-March
2016

Apologetics
In Defense of New Test



Realm of
Preparation
For
Eternity

This is the #1 Bible

Everything that
can happen is part
of the ideal
environment for
“soul-making.”

in the
of our
tionary
od.”

Sub-Causes of Suffering

Sin

Satan

Strengthen

Suffering/hardship can—

*strengthen

*correct

*improve

*perfect

*mature

*purify

*discipline

Positive

Benefits!

Sub-Causes

of

Suffering

“In this you greatly rejoice, beloved, do not think it joyfully brethren, count it all joy though momentary a little while, a strange concerning the fiery trial which you fall into various trials, if need be, you have been grieved, trial which is to try you as though knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let some strange thing happened to you, of your faith being much more precious than gold, that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor and glory.”

Roman 5:3-4

1 Peter 1:6-7

1 Peter 4:12-13

God as
Metallurgist

In metallurgy,
smelting is necessary
to produce pure metals.

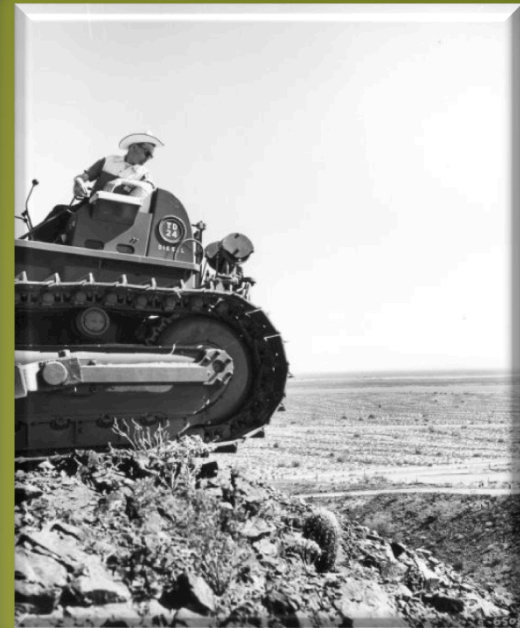
“Behold, I have refined you,
but not as silver; I have tested
you in the furnace of affliction.”

Isaiah 48:10

(cf. Psalm 66:10;
Ezekiel 22:17-22; Malachi 3:3)

God as
Tester

**This life
is our
proving
grounds!**



We are
being

Causes of
Suffering

... devil is
... w some of
... on, that you
may be tested!”

Revelation 2:10

God as
Physician

Job 5:17-18

Eliphaz was correct: God can use adversity
the same way a surgeon

“Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects;
do not despise the chastening of the Almighty,
because He bruises, but He binds up; He wounds, but
He makes whole.”

What surgeons do is rather violent and barbaric: cutting
open, pounding, sawing, scraping, inflicting orchestration
upon a human being.

The cardiologist that slices the chest and pries back the
patient is inflicting considerable shock and distress that, without anesthesia,
would be virtually unbearable.

Yet his actions are wholly calculated to save life and make well.

He is the
Great
Physician!

Can we not
see God in
the same
light?

Proverbs 29:15

Parental discipline = two forms

“The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.”

Corporal
punishment

Verbal admonition
and instruction

Both are indispensable to a well-rounded upbringing (Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15,17).

Our heavenly parent—the “father of our spirits” (Hebrews 12:9)—is deeply interested in bringing us to spiritual adulthood.

God as
Parent

Proverbs 3:9-12

“My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor detest His correction; for whom the LORD loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.”

Hebrews 12:7-11

“If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

1 Corinthians 10:13

“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you able able, but with the temptation will also make the escape escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

- = Many others have gone before us in sufferings.
- = God is trustworthy and will be with us.
- = Won't be beyond our ability to handle.
- = God will intervene to provide assistance.
- = We are capable of going through it successfully.

If given the choice to go to a funeral or to go to a party or ballgame, which would you choose?

FUNERAL OR PARTY?

“Better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for that is the end of all men; and the living will take it to heart. Sorrow is better than laughter, for by a sad countenance the heart is made better. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth” (Ecclesiastes 7:2-4).

Sub-Causes of Suffering

✓
Sin

✓
Satan

✓
Strengthen

Vindication

“Then the Lord said to Satan,
‘Have you considered My
servant Job, that there is none
like him on the earth, a blameless
and upright man, one who fears
God and shuns evil?’”

Job 1:8; 2:3



Allowing Job to be afflicted
was God's way of demonstrating
that He is worthy of our worship,
devotion, and obedience—

separate and apart from the
blessings that He bestows!

Every human being ought to
render allegiance to God—

simply because He is God!



Job's Integrity

Job 2:3-4

“Then the LORD said to Satan, ‘Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause.’”



Job's
Integrity

Job 2:9

“Then his wife said to him, ‘Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!’”



Job's
Integrity

Job 4:6

“Is not your reverence your
confidence? And the integrity of
your ways your hope?”

Eliphaz



Job's

Integrity

Job 27:5-6

“Till I die I will not put away my integrity from me. My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go; My heart shall not reproach me as long as I live.”

1 John 3:21—

“Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.”

Job provided proof positive
that God is worthy of our
worship and loyalty...



simply because

He is God!

Sub-Causes of Suffering

✓
Sin

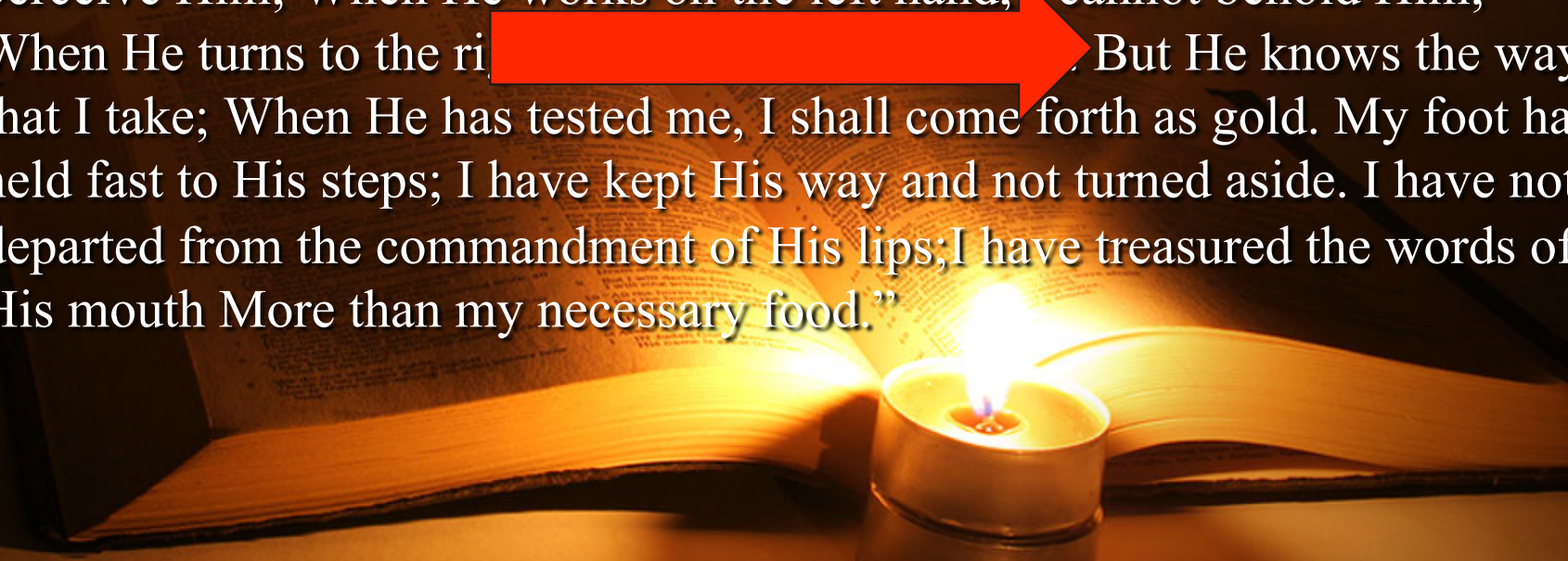
✓
Satan

✓
Strengthen

✓
Vindication

Verification

“Even today my complaint is bitter; My hand is listless because of my groaning. Oh, that I knew where I might find Him, that I might come to His seat! I would present my case before Him, and fill my mouth with arguments. I would know the words which He would answer me, and understand what He would say to me. Would He contend with me in His great power? No! But He would take note of me. There the upright could reason with Him, And I would be delivered forever from my Judge. Look, I go forward, but He is not there, and backward, but I cannot perceive Him; When He works on the left hand, I cannot behold Him; When He turns to the right, I cannot see Him. But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold. My foot has held fast to His steps; I have kept His way and not turned aside. I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food.”



Job 23:2-12

Job 23:10

“But He knows
the way that I take;
when He has tested me,
I shall come forth as

gold.”

“tested” =
a *touchstone*

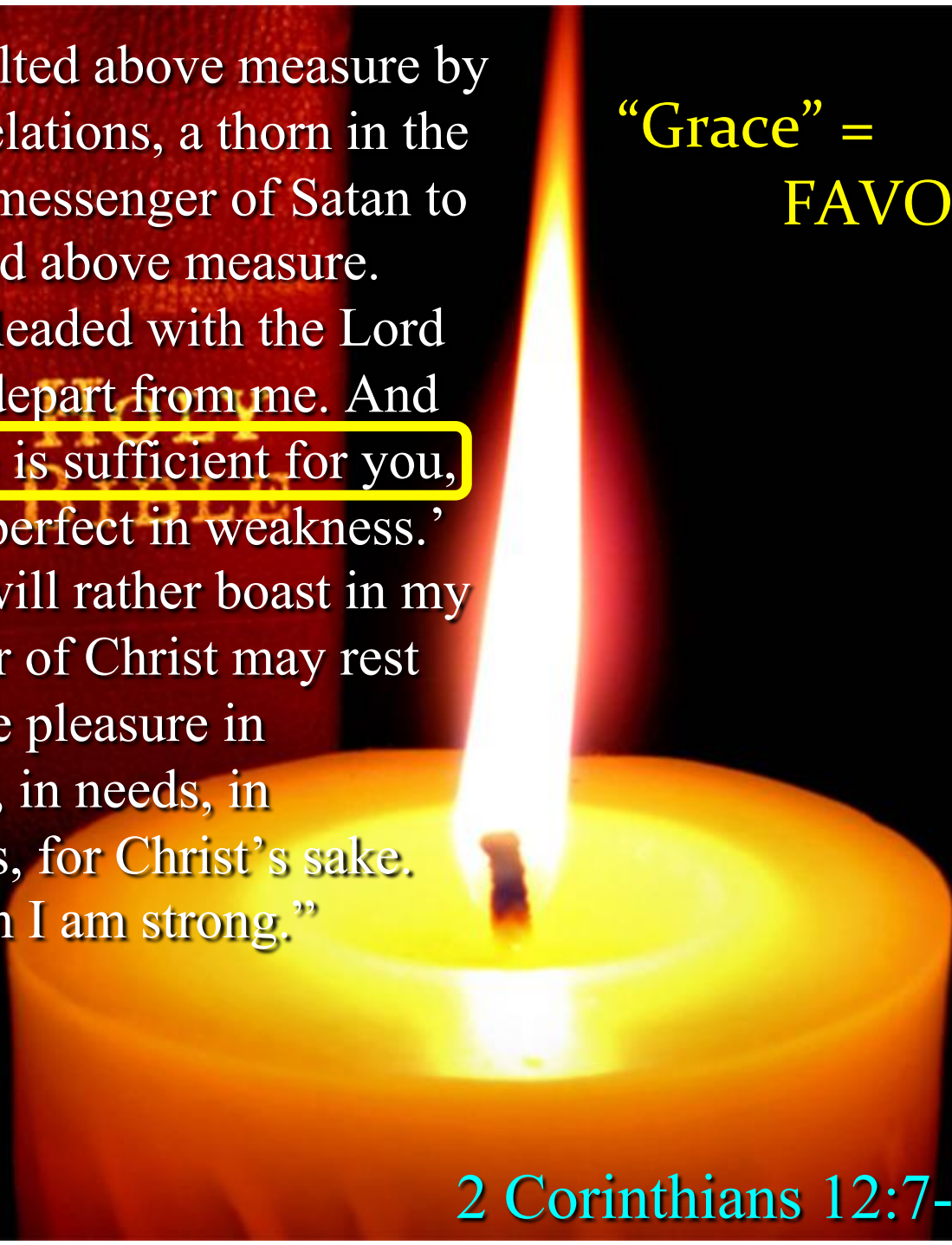


Touchstone set

“A fine-grained dark stone
formerly used to test the fineness
of gold and silver by the color of
the streak made on the stone.”

Hardship
and suffering
in your life
may well be an
indication that God
approves of you and
counts you faithful!

God
Likes
Me!




“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’

Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

“Grace” =
FAVOR

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

A lit candle with a bright flame is the central focus of the image. The candle is orange and yellow, and its flame is a vibrant yellow and orange. In the background, a red Bible is visible, with the words "HOLY BIBLE" printed in gold. The entire scene is set against a dark background.

“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been *proved*, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”

James 1:12

Conclusion

“The stakes in eternity (i.e., the

blessings of Heaven and the unending punishment of

Hell) are of such magnitude as to render all pain and suffering in this life of no ultimate negative significance” (TBW).

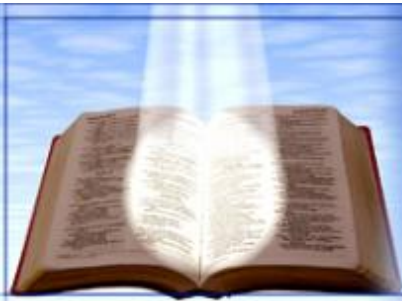
Realm of
Preparation
For
Eternity

HIGH
STAKES

Realm of
Preparation
For
Eternity

**“For our light affliction,
which is but for a moment,
is working for us a far
more exceeding and
eternal weight of glory.”**

2 Corinthians 4:17



Heb Matthew: 16:26

“By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused what is seen and profited Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he looked to the reward”

~~“For what is seen and profited Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he looked to the reward”~~

if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?

Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”



James 5:10-11

“My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that

the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.”

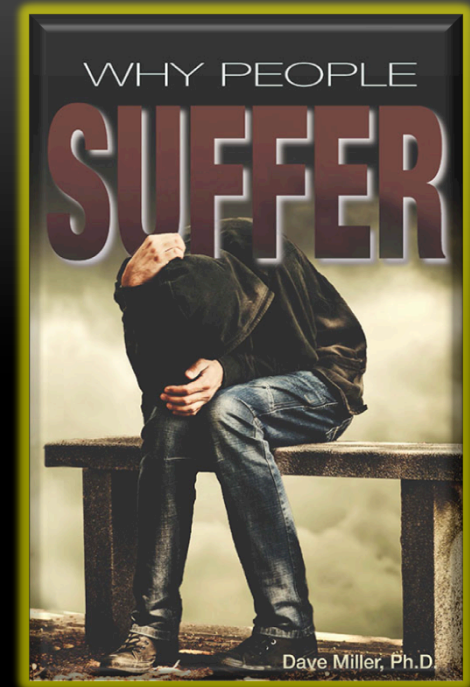
We ought to be like
the farmer's mule
that fell into a pit.



We ought to have the same determination
as we face the hardships of life—shake 'em
off!

Final Conclusion

We can and must
live faithful
and will be with us
even in the face of pain,
through adversity.
suffering, and hardship!



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