



Pastor Sam Devine  
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## God Suffering With Us

The God whose coming into our world we celebrate every Christmas is the very one who suffers with us.

📖 Matthew 2:1-18

### ❖ Christ has come to suffer with humanity.

“He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain...” Isaiah 53:3

The God who created you is not unmoved by your pain. He is not devoid of emotion.

God is full of compassion.

His heart is one of love for you.

“Suffering is unbearable if you aren’t certain that God is with you and for you.” Dr. Timothy Keller

### ❖ Christ has come to suffer for humanity.

We need deliverance. We need a Saviour.

“Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.” Isaiah 53:4-5

Jesus went where we could not go. He went to the depths of our real lack of peace and wholeness. He suffered for our sin.

“Jesus took away the only kind of suffering that can really destroy you: being cast away from God.” Dr. Timothy Keller

Jesus suffered for you so that you might be delivered from your addiction to sin and brought into union with God.

### ❖ Christ is sovereign over all suffering.

We need to know that suffering does not have the final say.

“A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.” Matthew 2:18

“...Restrain your voice from weeping... They will return from the land of the enemy. There is hope...” Jeremiah 31:16-17

King Jesus rose from the dead and He has the final say, not your suffering!

“...He will see His offspring and prolong His days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in His hand. After He has suffered, He will see the light of life and be satisfied; by His knowledge my righteous servant will justify many...” Isaiah 53:10-11

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain...” Revelation 21:4

We may never fully understand all the reasons for suffering in this life but what we do know is that God is sovereign over all suffering.

One day, there will be no more suffering. The battle will be over and your joy will be full. He has the final say. Praise His name!

### Questions for Reflection:

- What difference does it make to how you view God, knowing that He suffers with you and for you?
- How can we encourage others to anchor their hope in God who is in control of all things and has the final word?