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Triumph in Troubles

Or, How I learned to stop
worrying and love my
troubles

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The culmination of chapters 5-8

- Ch 5 - Original sin, that we are born as enemies of God
- Ch 6 - through our faith we are reborn in baptism and are set free from sin. We reckon our old selves dead to sin
- Ch 7 deals with how we cannot overcome sin in the flesh through the law (our strength)
- Ch 8 tells us by walking in the spirit of adoption as children of God we experience freedom



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Jesus Suffered

Isa 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.



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Jesus Suffered

- Giving up comfort and glory for obedience
- Accepting ridicule and not defending himself
- Accepting defeat to win victory for us
- Deferring his glory until His Father bestowed it



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Our Sufferings – the result of sin & judgment

- Suffering for our own wrong actions
- Suffering as a result of someone else's wrong actions
- Suffering due to the general state of a cursed creation

God uses them all to bring about our perfection!

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Children of God

1 John 3:1 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.



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God's Plan of Redemption

- God bound all people over to sin, all of creation subjected to futility (Rom 5:12, Rom 8:20, 11:32)
- That God may extend mercy through Christ to all who believe (Rom 3:22)
- This requires fully depending upon Christ and not on ourselves (Rom 6:23)
- So for eternity He would be our God, and we his people.



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Troubles teach us
dependence on God

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For now we groan...

- We groan because of our own weakness
- We groan because of the sin in others and the destruction we see around us
- We groan because we have tasted something better – First Fruits of the Spirit



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We groan in good company

Ps 22:1 My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me? So far from the words of my groaning?



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Things will soon be
as they should be!

*Phil 3:20 And we eagerly await
a Savior from there, the Lord
Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the
power that enables him to
bring everything under his
control, will transform our
lowly bodies so that they will
be like his glorious body.*



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The purpose of God

Eph 1:9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, ¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth -- in Him.

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The chief end of man



To glorify God and enjoy Him
forever

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Love Unimaginable

- God is for us
- He gave His own son for us
- He will graciously give us all things
- Only Christ, the one who defends us, has the authority to bring a charge against us
- No trouble can separate us from this love!

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Uh oh...here comes trouble

- Jesus said we'd have trouble
(Jn 16:33)
- Paul said we'd share in Christ's suffering
(Rom 8:17)
- Peter said don't be surprised at trouble
(1 Pet 4:12)
- James said to count it joy when
we have trouble (Jam 1:2)



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How do we view trouble?



- **Reaping** what we've sown – God is not mocked (Gal 6:7)
- **God's discipline** – He disciplines those he loves (Heb 12:6)
- **Attacks of the enemy** – the devil fights the work of God, but we are not unaware of his schemes (2 Cor 2:11)
- **Creation groaning** – the fallenness of the world we live in (Rom 8:22)
- **God's pruning** – indicates fruitfulness and God's pleasure (John 15:2)

God uses them all to bring about our perfection!

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How do we conquer trouble



- Don't be surprised that you are having trouble
- Have faith that you are adopted into his family (Rom 8:15)
- Ask God to reveal to you if your trouble is due to your own doing and repent as needed
- Believe that God desires the best for you in all things
- Draw close to God in prayer through the Holy Spirit. (Rom 8:26-27)
- Don't give up...even to point of death...God will cause you to conquer