

Christ our Companion in our Sorrows

Christianity uniquely reveals that God has entered into human suffering. *“He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows...He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities”* (Isaiah 53:4-5). The message of the cross is, *“It is finished.”* Our salvation has been achieved.

Yet, do not miss the message of the cross for our present sorrows. God’s Gospel reveals how God identifies and understands our suffering. Christ has suffered the depths of our present suffering and sorrows. Christ our High Priest brings our prayers and pathos to the throne of God. Christ is our companion in our suffering.

The Cross of Christ also promises us that our present suffering has a future. Personal pain can turn out the light at the end of the tunnel. The Cross reveals God’s redemptive light in and at the end of our suffering. God redeems suffering.

Christ endured the cross to redeem us. Endured in the Spirit of Christ, our suffering is transforming. Suffering produces spiritual character and compassion. Art and creativity are unleashed. How much of the great art, literature, and music come as an expression of personal suffering and sorrow? Our pain and suffering has a future.

The Bible does not diminish the pain of suffering. Suffering is no fun. I do not desire it. I do not wish it upon anyone. My initial response when distress comes is, *“Answer me when I call to You, O my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress”* (Psalm 4:1). God doesn’t always give immediate relief.

Therefore, remember, Christ is our companion in our suffering. Seek Him, trust Him, and pray for greater faith to trust that our suffering has a future. And we can know that *“our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all”* (2 Corinthians 4:17).