

# “Why Christ Had to Suffer”

The Mysteries of Easter #2

## INTRODUCTION

As Jesus neared the end of His earthly life, he suffered. We see Him suffer in the Garden of Gethsemane as He prayed that, if possible, He might be spared what was about to transpire. He suffered betrayal by Judas, He suffered during His trials, He suffered humiliation, beatings and crucifixion. Without a doubt Jesus suffered greatly, but was His suffering necessary? This study asks the question “Why did Christ have to suffer?”

### **Ice Breaker (Optional):**

What factors, if any, can you think of that makes it easier for you to endure a painful situation?

## STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

### **Christ Suffered To fulfill God’s Promise**

#### **Q1. Read Isaiah 53:1-5**

As Isaiah prophetically peered down the corridors of time he clearly viewed the sufferings that Christ would endure. Moved by God’s Holy Spirit, he penned God’s promises to us made possible through that suffering. Whose pain and suffering did Christ bare (Isaiah 53:4?) What was it that caused Him to be pierced and crushed (Isaiah 53:5?) How did God promise us that we would benefit from His suffering?

### **Christ Suffered To satisfy God’s Wrath**

#### **Q2. Read Isaiah 53:10a; Hebrews 7:27; 1 John 2:2; 1 Peter 2:24**

When you hear the term “God’s wrath” what images come to mind? In the New Testament God’s wrath has been defined as “That in God, which stands opposed to man’s disobedience [...] and sin and manifests itself in punishing the same.”<sup>1</sup> In our sinful state, God’s wrath, His anger and punishment, should be directed at us, however Isaiah 53:10 tells us God accepted what substitution in full payment (propitiation) for our sin? Consider for a moment what incredible value God must place upon you to exchange Jesus’ punishment for yours. What does Hebrews 7:27 reveal to us about Jesus’ willingness to suffer for us? What did Christ’s great sacrifice make available to us,

according to 1 Peter 2:24? What does it mean to you to “die to sin and live to righteousness”?

<sup>1</sup> Thayer’s Greek Lexicon

### **Christ Suffered To learn Obedience**

#### **Q3. Read Mark 14:36; Hebrews 5:8**

Although He was willing to suffer for the sin of the world, Jesus did not seek to suffer. In Mark 14:36 what did He first recognize about God; what did he request of God; and how did Jesus express obedience to God? Even though Jesus was God’s obedient son, how does Hebrews 5:8 tell us he learned obedience? Can you share an experience when your suffering taught you obedience to God?

## WRAP-UP

Suffering is a natural consequence of sin. Being sinless, Jesus should never have suffered for His own sin. But as God promised us through the prophecies of the Old Testament, He was sent to take the pain and suffering resulting from the sin of the whole world. God’s wrath, that is His anger and punishment directed toward our sinful disobedience, was satisfied through Jesus’ taking our place on the cross willingly and obediently. If Christ had not suffered, we would be condemned to eternal suffering and separation from God. But God’s love for us compelled Him to suffer in our place, making a way for us to live eternally in God’s loving presence.

### **Memory Verse**

*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 53:5 NIV*

## PRAYER (20 MIN)

*Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Pray for your group members’ needs: \_\_\_\_\_*

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### **Challenge:**

*Take time this week to read Matthew 26 – 27, and consider the suffering Jesus endured in order to offer us eternal life in Him.*

**Q1**

Read Isaiah 53:1-5 in your Bible

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**Q2**

Isaiah 53:10a NIV - 10 Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, ...

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Hebrews 7:27 NIV - 27 Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.

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1 John 2:2 ESV - 2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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1 Peter 2:24 ESV - 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

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**Q3**

Mark 14:36 ESV - 36 And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

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Hebrews 5:8 NIV - 8 Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered

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Prayers con't

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