

# ***Why Do Christians Suffer? – part 2***

***1 Peter 4:12-19***



**SIN**

# *Christians Suffer*

- 1. To determine if someone is a true Christian.*



# ***Parable of the Sower – Matt. 13:18-33***



# ***Christians Suffer***

- 1. To determine if someone is a true Christian.***
- 2. To motivate a Christian to stop sinning.***
- 3. To motivate a Christian to not sin.***

# ***4<sup>th</sup> Reason Christians Suffer – For Spiritual Growth***

## ***Principle – James 1:2 - 4***

- ***Great joy . . .***
- ***Different types of trials***
- ***Trials produce steadfastness in true Christians***

*A person can respond to suffering like an egg, or like a potato. A potato goes into the boiling water hard but comes out pliable.*



*An egg goes into the boiling water soft and comes out hard.*

***It is doubtful God can use any man greatly until He has hurt him deeply.***

***- A. W. Tozer***

***Men will never be great in theology until they are great in suffering.***

***- C. H. Spurgeon***



***A Christian is like a  
tea bag – not much  
good until it has  
gone through hot  
water.***



# ***4<sup>th</sup> Reason Christians Suffer – For Spiritual Growth***

## ***Principle – James 1:2-5***

- ***Great joy . . .***
- ***Different types of trials***
- ***Trials produce steadfastness in true Christians***

## ***Illustration – Job 1:6 – 2:10***

# ***5<sup>th</sup> Reason Christians Suffer – To Glorify God***

## ***Illustration – Job 1:6 – 2:10***

- ***Job's temptation was a contest between Satan and God***
- ***Job glorified God***

***Principle – John 9:3  
John 11:4***

***Lazarus'  
Death Was  
For The  
Glory of God***

***John 11:4***



# ***6<sup>th</sup> Reason Christians Suffer – Suffer For Christ***

***Illustration – Persecution of Christians***



# FRANCE: ANTI-CHRISTIAN ATTACKS RISE 245 PERCENT

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TWEET



**FAITH UNDER FIRE**

## **CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION IN AMERICA**

Star Parker targets attempt to ruin career of singer whose song is featured in hit film

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## **ISIS to Crucified Christians: 'If You Love Jesus, You Will Die Like Jesus'**

Preacher Arrested for Calling Homosexuality a Sin

**Pastor shot and killed at Ohio church during religious service**

# ***Examples of Christian Suffering For Christ***

**City officials prohibited senior citizens from praying over their meals, listening to religious messages or singing gospel songs at a senior activities center.**

**A public school official physically lifted an elementary school student from his seat and reprimanded him in front of his classmates for praying over his lunch.**

**A federal judge held that prayers before a state House of Representatives could be to Allah but not to Jesus.**

# ***Examples of Christian Suffering For Christ***

**A public university's law school banned a Christian organization because it required its officers to adhere to a statement of faith that the university disagreed with.**

**The U.S. Department of Justice argued before the Supreme Court that the federal government can tell churches and synagogues which pastors and rabbis it can hire and fire.**

**The State of Texas sought to approve and regulate what religious seminaries can teach.**

# ***6<sup>th</sup> Reason Christians Suffer – Suffer For Christ***

***Illustration – Persecution of Christians***

***Principle – 1 Peter 4:12-19***

- ***Matthew 5:10-12***
- ***James 1:2-5***

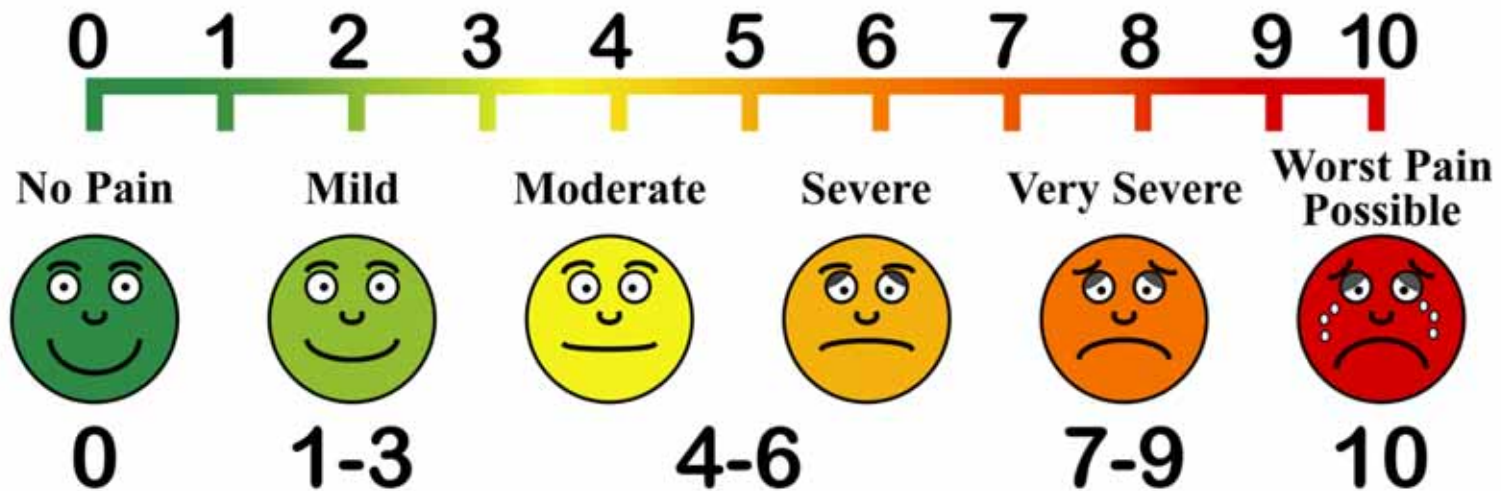


# ***7<sup>th</sup> Reason Christians Suffer – God Is Taking Us Home!***

***Principle – Psalm 116:15  
Exodus 4:11***

***Illustration – Eccl. 12***

# PAIN ASSESSMENT TOOL



***What Is Your Pain Level Today?***



***How Do You Anesthetize Your Pain?***

# *Why Do We Suffer?*

- 1. Prove we are Christians*
- 2. Stop us from sinning*
- 3. Prevent us from sinning*
- 4. Spiritual growth*
- 5. Glorify God*
- 6. Suffer for Christ*
- 7. Time to go home!*

# **Conclusion**

**1 John 1:9**

***Confess & flee all known sin***

**2 Tim. 4:6-8**

***Fulfilled his ministry***

***Kept the faith***

***Pursued his rewards***

***Focused on Jesus***

**1 Peter 4:12-19**

***Rejoice & entrusted himself  
to Jesus in his trials –***

***Habakkuk 3:16-19***