

***Why Do
Christians Suffer?
– part 3***

1 Peter 4:12-19



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. To cause a Christian to grow spiritually***
- 5. To bring God glory.***

6th Reason Christians Suffer – Suffer For Christ

Principle - 1 Peter 4:12 – 19

"This World Is Not My Home"

**This world is not my home
I'm just a-passing through
My treasures are laid up
Somewhere beyond the blue.**

**The angels beckon me
From heaven's open door
And I can't feel at home
In this world anymore.**

6th Reason Christians Suffer – Suffer For Christ

Principle - 1 Peter 4:12 – 19

Illustrations

- ***Matt. 5:13***
- ***Matt. 5:14-16***
- ***Acts 9:13 - 16***

***You are the salt
of the earth. . .***

Matt. 5:13





***You are the light
of the world . . .***

Matt. 5:14-16

If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

Remember the word that I said to you, “A slave is not greater than his master.” If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me.

John 15:19-21

***Paul's
Conversion . . .
on Damascus
Road***

Acts 9:13 - 16



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

Christian Persecution In U.S.

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.

Christian Persecution In U.S.

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.

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

7th Reason Christians Suffer – Due To Lack of Wisdom

Proverbs 13:20

Proverbs 19:15

Psalms 34:9 – 10

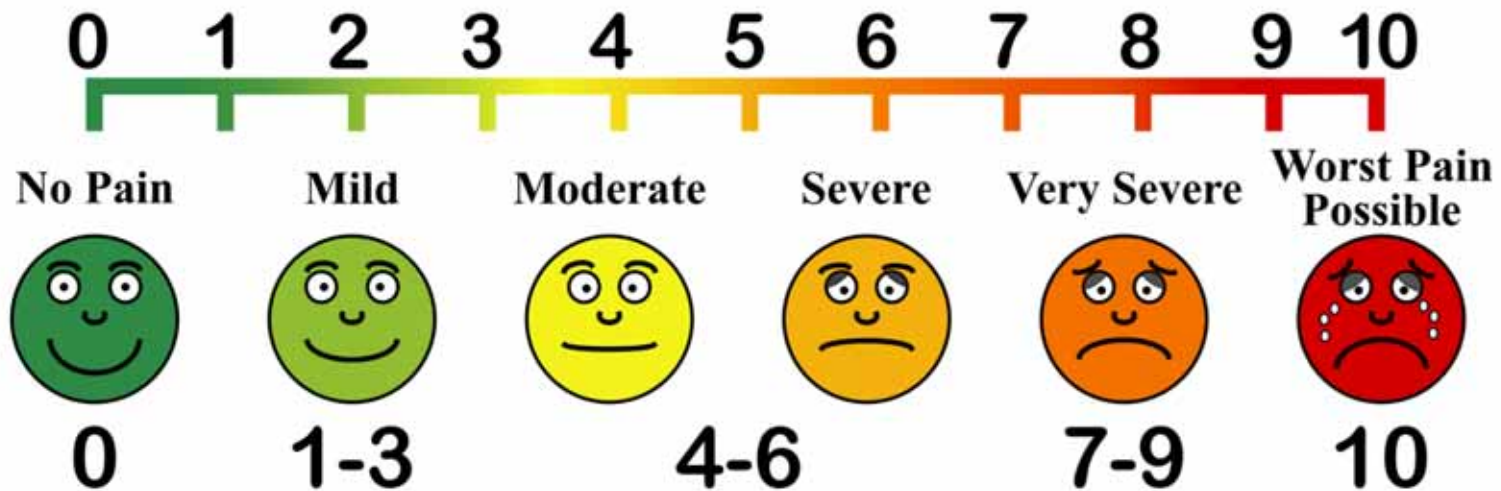
Matthew 6:33

8th Reason Christians Suffer – God Is Taking Us Home!

Illustration – Ecclesiastes 12

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

PAIN ASSESSMENT TOOL



What Is Your Pain Level Today?



How Do You Anesthetize Your Pain?

Spiritual Guidelines (ITAR)

1. *It's God will we suffer.*

- *1 Peter 4:19*
- *Philippians 1:6*
- *Romans 8:28*

2. *Trust God for His plan*

- *Romans 1:17*
- *Hebrews 13:5*
- *Habakkuk 3:16-19*

Spiritual Guidelines (ITAR)

3. Ask God for wisdom & help

- *James 1:2 - 5*
- *Hebrews 4:16*
- *1 Peter 5:6 - 7*

Spiritual Guidelines (ITAR)

4. Rejoice

- ***Matthew 5:10 – 12***
- ***1 Peter 3:14***
- ***1 Peter 4:13***
- ***James 1:2***
- ***1 Thessalonians 5:16***

Types of Suffering

- 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!*