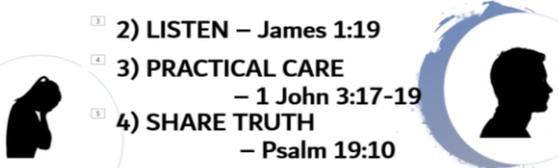


## Dig Deeper Questions and further resources for Christ Church Huntingdon Series on Suffering

### Sermon 3) Suffering from the perspective of the end

### Suffering and the future...

- 1) The hope of heaven... is built on reality...  
and it keeps us going through suffering
- 2) Practical ways to help...
  - 1) PRAYER – James 5:16
  - 2) LISTEN – James 1:19
  - 3) PRACTICAL CARE  
– 1 John 3:17-19
  - 4) SHARE TRUTH  
– Psalm 19:10



### Verses used in the sermon...

1a) Revelation 21:1-5

1b) Psalm 34:17,18; John 11:25; 1 Cor 15:1-3

1c) Romans 8:18; 2 Cor 4:17

2) James 5:16; James 1:19; 1 John 3:17-19; Psalm 44:13; Psalm 18:30; Psalm 19:10.

### Questions for further investigation on your own or in small groups...

- 1) Though the picture language takes some figuring out, take another look at “*what’s there*”, and “*what’s not there*” in Revelation 21, and think about how good heaven will be. Is there anything specific here that brings you help in suffering?
- 2) Taking into consideration the four practical suggestions for helping others, is there anything you would do differently next time in helping a friend who is having a hard time?
- 3) What in this series has helped you to see the trustworthiness of God? Talk to God in prayer.

### Questions for family discussion...

- 1) Does everyone go to heaven? How does John 3:36 help us answer that? Are you trusting Jesus?
- 2) What Bible stories show us that God is good, even when bad things happen? (see 1 Peter 3:18 & Genesis 50:20). What would you like to say to God?

### Some Further Resources...

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEX3WY3zFF4&list=OLAK5uy\\_mOfVjFszf8FoW9ErjDhr1Awbo4T5KetQ&index=2&t=0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEX3WY3zFF4&list=OLAK5uy_mOfVjFszf8FoW9ErjDhr1Awbo4T5KetQ&index=2&t=0s) “There is a Higher Throne”- song by K & K Getty.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nBrshCT1FM> 1 hour talk to students at Royal Holloway University by our friend Andrew Sach on “If God, why Suffering”.
- <https://www.10ofthose.com/uk/products?q=suffering> A range of books on the topic of suffering. Of particular recommendation are:
  - “Suffering and Evil”- Scott Petty, Little black book. Short youth introduction.
  - “Why Me?” Roger Carswell- several personal stories of people’s suffering.
  - “Don’t waste your Cancer” short booklet by John Piper- also free online [here](#).
  - “Walking with God through pain and suffering”- Tim Keller.
  - “How Long O Lord”- Don Carson. More advanced Biblical reflections on suffering.

## **Extra Verses on Suffering...**

### **Psalm 23:1-4**

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.  
<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,  
<sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul.  
He guides me along the right paths  
for his name's sake.  
<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.

### **Psalm 44:23**

Awake, LORD! Why do you sleep?  
Rouse yourself! Do not reject us for ever.

### **Psalm 125:2**

As the mountains surround Jerusalem,  
so the LORD surrounds his people  
both now and for evermore.

### **Isaiah 45:5-7**

I am the LORD, and there is no other;  
apart from me there is no God.  
I will strengthen you,  
though you have not acknowledged me,  
<sup>6</sup>so that from the rising of the sun  
to the place of its setting  
people may know there is none besides me.  
I am the LORD, and there is no other.  
<sup>7</sup>I form the light and create darkness,  
I bring prosperity and create disaster;  
I, the LORD, do all these things.

### **Jeremiah 29:11**

'For I know the plans I have for you,'  
declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and  
not to harm you, plans to give you hope and  
a future'.

### **John 14:1-4**

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You  
believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>My  
Father's house has many rooms; if that were  
not so, would I have told you that I am going  
there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go  
and prepare a place for you, I will come back  
and take you to be with me that you also  
may be where I am. <sup>4</sup>You know the way to  
the place where I am going.'

### **John 16:33**

'I have told you these things, so that in me  
you may have peace. In this world you will  
have trouble. But take heart! I have  
overcome the world.'

### **Romans 8:18**

I consider that our present sufferings are not  
worth comparing with the glory that will be  
revealed in us.

### **Romans 8:28,29**

<sup>28</sup>And we know that in all things God works  
for the good of those who love him,  
who have been called according to his  
purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those God foreknew he also  
predestined to be conformed to the image of  
his Son, that he might be the firstborn  
among many brothers and sisters.

### **2 Corinthians 1:3-7**

<sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord  
Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and  
the God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup>who comforts us in  
all our troubles, so that we can comfort those  
in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves  
receive from God. <sup>5</sup>For just as we share  
abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also  
our comfort abounds through Christ. <sup>6</sup>If we  
are distressed, it is for your comfort and  
salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your  
comfort, which produces in you patient  
endurance of the same sufferings we  
suffer. <sup>7</sup>And our hope for you is firm, because  
we know that just as you share in our  
sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

### **2 Corinthians 4:7-11**

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to  
show that this all-surpassing power is from  
God and not from us. <sup>8</sup>We are hard pressed  
on every side, but not crushed; perplexed,  
but not in despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not  
abandoned; struck down, but not  
destroyed. <sup>10</sup>We always carry around in our  
body the death of Jesus, so that the life of  
Jesus may also be revealed in our  
body. <sup>11</sup>For we who are alive are always  
being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so  
that his life may also be revealed in our  
mortal body.

### **Philippians 4:4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again:  
rejoice! <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be evident to  
all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not be anxious  
about anything, but in every situation, by  
prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,  
present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace  
of God, which transcends all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in  
Christ Jesus.

### **1 Peter 5:6,7**

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's  
mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due  
time. <sup>7</sup>Cast all your anxiety on him because  
he cares for you.