

Romans Chapter 8  
Week 15, v. 36-37

Ro 8:36 Just as it is written, "FOR THY SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."

Ps 44:22 But for Thy sake we are killed all day long; We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.

1Co 15:30 Why are we also in danger every hour? I protest, brethren, by the boasting in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

2Co 4:11 For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

Because of Paul's attachment to Christ, he is subject to suffering constantly. It was and is the same for all Christians. The early saints were persecuted yet they still continued to persevere.

When you are ridiculed or attacked because of your faith, do you remain faithful?

Mt 5:10-12 "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when [men] cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. "Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Joh 15:21 "But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me.

For thy sake, not for our offences, but for obeying thee; the trials of these suppliants came upon them because they were loyal to their God. Are we killed all the day long. Persecution never ceased to hound them to the death, they had no respite and found no door of escape; and all in God's behalf, because they would not forsake their covenant God and King. We are counted as sheep for the slaughter; as if we were only meant to be killed, and made on purpose to be victims; as if it were as easy and as innocent a thing to slay us as to slaughter sheep. The Treasury of David

It is important to note this is not speaking of suffering that may come upon a believer because of their sin or poor choices. Rather, it is suffering that a Christian is exposed to directly because of their obedience to God and faith in Him.

### Why do Christian's suffer in this world?

Heb 11:25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin;

Mt 10:22 "And you will be hated by all on account of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.

Job 12:4 "I am a joke to my friends. The one who called on God, and He answered him; The just [and] blameless [man] is a joke.

Mt 24:9 "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name.

Joh 15:18-19 "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before [it hated] you. "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, therefore the world hates you.

Joh 17:14 "I have given them Thy word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Ro 8:37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

In spite of being hated by the world and suffering for our faith, in how many things are we able to conquer through Christ?

All! Meaning everything, always, daily, thoroughly.

1Co 15:57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2Co 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.

1Jo 4:4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

1Jo 5:4-5 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith. And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

“we overwhelmingly conquer”

This is not, ‘pew, that was close, wasn’t sure for a moment I would make it’. It is having absolute confidence that there is no need to even be remotely concerned about our victory in Christ. We are more than conquerors – we crush the competition!

**Why?** Because we have the power of the One who loved us enough to send His only Son to take our iniquity upon Himself who was perfect to eradicate the penalty of sin from our lives. We have the power of the One who was raised from death to overcome the power of sin in our lives. We have the power of the Son who is seated at the right hand of God.

Eph 1:18-21 [I pray that] the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what **is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.** [These are] in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly [places], **far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come.**

Mt 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**

Joh 3:35 "The Father loves the Son, and has given **all** things into His hand.

Joh 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; **I have overcome the world.**"

Does anyone or anything have the power to destroy our faith? Does anyone have the power to make us lose confidence? Does anyone have the power to eliminate our hope?

Instead, our faith should be strengthened, our gratitude should increase, our love should multiply, our confidence should be complete, our hope is secure.

What is your response?

Php 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

2Co 12:9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

1Co 15:57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jude 1:24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, [be] glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

We in ourselves are as defenseless and vulnerable as sheep but through Christ we have overwhelming victory in tribulation, distress and even death. In fact, through trials our faith strengthens.

2Co 4:17-18 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Mt 5:12 "Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

1Pe 5:10 And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen [and] establish you.

### Application Questions

Is there any question that you will be ridiculed, treated unfairly or even persecuted because of your faith? How has this presented itself in your own life? How have you responded? How should you respond according to Scripture?

Matthew 5:10-12

Read the following verses and explain why Christians suffer for their faith?

Hebrews 11:25; Job 12:4

Matthew 10:22, 24:9; John 15:18-19, 17:4

There is hope found in Romans 8:37. What does it say? What does it mean for you personally? 1 Corinthians 15:57; 2 Corinthians 2:14; 1 John 4:4; 1 John 5:4-5

How powerful is God?

Ephesians 1:21

Matthew 28:18

Through trials is your faith strengthened or weakened? Does your thankfulness for what you have been given increase or diminish? Does your love for Him abound or wither? Does your confidence in Him grow or do you lose heart? Does your hope in Him remain secure or do you become fearful?

Be encouraged by these Scriptures: Philippians 4:13; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, 12:9; 1 Corinthians 15:57; Jude 1:24; Matthew 5:12; 1 Peter 5:10