



- Twin dangers in suffering – missing what God is doing; missing what Satan wants to do. 3 attitudes necessary to profit from suffering:

1. Be Humble because God cares v5-7

- God allows hardship to teach his children lessons, to do good in the lives of his people

a) Pride questions God’s wisdom v5,6

- Pride questions what God is doing, denies that God could do good with this
- Dangerous because pride sets us on a collision course with God
- Dangerous because it delays learning the lesson God wants us to learn
- If God has brought hardship into your life, let it humble you & cause you to trust him

b) Worry questions God’s care v7

- Worry is the quiet side of pride – “I can’t see a way out of this. I can’t provide”
- For the Christian worry is not your job! You have a heavenly Father who cares
- Nothing is too miniscule or mundane to take to him

- Pride and worry make things worse. Trust what he is doing because he cares

2. Be Watchful because the Devil is dangerous v8,9

- In all hardship God is in control, but Satan also seeks to capitalise on it

a) There is a Devil

- We need to accept the Bible’s teaching on both God and Satan, not pick and choose.

b) He is Dangerous and Devious

- ‘Enemy’ = an accusing adversary. ‘Devil’ = slanderer. Accusations and Lies.
- Need to be alert – know his methods of attack, temptation and his timing

c) He can be resisted

- We don’t have to give to temptation – a marvellous truth, see also (James 4:7)
- Our biggest danger is not the Devil, but failing to stand firm, giving in too easily.
- Christ has left us his sword that he used to defeat Satan – the Word of God
- Dig in your heels and resist, relying on the word of God to strengthen you

3. Be Hope-filled because God is powerful v10-11

- The help doesn’t need to be earned – “the God of all grace”
- The end is not in doubt – ‘called you to his eternal glory in Christ’
- The trouble is only for a limited time – “after you have suffered a little while”
- The strengthening will come – “will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast” because he has all the “power for ever and ever”.



Welcome to our service this morning - today we are remembering Christ’s death for sinners as we take part in the Lord’s Supper.

If you are a Christian and haven’t joined with us for the Lord’s Supper before, or spoken to the elders, we’d invite you to watch, and come and speak to Mark before our next communion.

If you aren’t a Christian, or not sure, we’d invite you to watch as well, and if you have any questions, speak to Mark or one of the elders afterwards.

Notices

Sunday Evening service in Day Centre 8pm

Friday 16th Food & fun evening at Eithne’s 6.30pm
Everyone welcome!

Camp reunion forms available for the young people - Reunions in Jan & Feb.

Calendar Distribution

2012 Calendars are available - please take ones for yourselves or any family, friends or neighbours.

And we need to pick a day to distribute them around Ballymacool. It should only take an hour.

Christianity Explored

A 6-week course designed to let you find out the facts about Jesus, and to find answers to your questions the Bible and Christianity.

- You don’t need to know anything about the Bible
- You won’t be asked to read, pray or answer questions
- You will be given every opportunity to ask your own questions

If you’re interested in finding out more, or having one in your home for friends to come to - speak to Mark