How to Suffer Successfully

Warren Wiersbe

I. Introduction.


B. Paul's secret was that he had gone to heaven and come back again.

C. He shared this in order to magnify God's grace.

D. Paul was suffering physically and emotionally.

E. Paul's experience teaches us how to deal with suffering.

F. There are three possible responses to suffering.

II. Escape: suffering is an enemy.

A. God has no obligation to remove suffering simply because one is obedient, but this is how many Jews thought. (Galatians 4)

B. Many good people go through suffering because God can bless through suffering.

C. Escape sometimes works, but it did not for Paul.

III. Endure: suffering is a master.

A. Even if we do endure we spend a lot of time on just making it.

B. Suffering can make a person self-centered. There must be something higher.

IV. Enlist: suffering is a servant.

A. Paul took simple steps to turn suffering into a servant.

1. Accept suffering from the hand of God.

2. Give it back to God to work it out.

3. Rest on God's Word.

4. Draw upon God's grace.

5. Use the suffering for God's glory.
Application questions:

1. When have you found yourself responding negatively during suffering? What did you learn?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2. Why is enduring suffering not the highest calling?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

3. How would you counsel a Christian to respond to suffering in light of the message and your own experience? Explain.
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________