

“STEWARDING YOUR TRIALS” (Part 2)

Sunday, November 27, 2016

In this series we are placing a special emphasis on service and responsibility—our responsibility in serving God in the sphere of influence He has placed each one of us in.

† Stewarding your Trials

Trials are an important part of our lives. A time of difficulty is a time of challenge. The longer a trial continues in our lives the more it challenges us. It challenges the very core of who we are. It can tempt us to question many things. It can tempt us to doubt our faith and our God.

Seek to be a faithful steward of God by *stewarding your trials*.

I. The WRONG Question—WHY?

The “why” question is the wrong question. It is a question that is **often** either rooted in a *victim* mentality where we question God’s wisdom.

Sometimes we can genuinely be asking “why” from a heart of desiring to know what God is seeking to accomplish. The answer to this aspect of this question is found in Romans 8:28-29.

This is ALWAYS the answer to the “why” question. God desires to change us—transform us—into the image of His dear Son.

II. The RIGHT Questions—WHO & WHAT?

A. Who is the Authority—Who is in Control? (v. 1)

This concerns the first phrase of our mission statement—to *supremely love God*. God wants to deepen our devotion to Him. He wants us to grow in our love for Him as we understand more about Who He is.

1. Remember that He is the God of Purpose (John 15:2; Romans 8:28-29)
2. Remember that He is the God of Love (Romans 5:8; John 3:16)
3. Remember that He is the God that is Good (Romans 8:32)
4. Remember that He is the God of Righteousness (Psalm 33:4-5)
5. Remember that He is the God who is Trustworthy (Numbers 23:19)

It important to draw the right conclusions about God when we are in the midst of our trials.

Right theology leads to a right response toward our trials.

WITHOUT these foundational truths we can draw false conclusions about God and in turn respond improperly toward our trials.

B. _____ does God want to teach us?

Revelation 4:11 **Thou** art worthy, O **Lord**, to receive glory and honour and power: for **Thou** hast created all things, and for **Thy** pleasure they are and were created.

Romans 11:36 For of **Him**, and through **Him**, and to **Him**, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.

This teaching process is the process of reminding us of stabilizing truths which are the means of fruit bearing.

1. To remind us of our _____ (John 15:5)

It is a loving relationship in which there is mutual love—love displayed by the Vine upon the branch and in turn a loving response of obedience by the branch toward the Vine.

2. To remind us of our _____ (John 15:4-5, 7)

Our “abiding” in Christ is not about doing more, it is about yielding more.

a. Our dependency in _____ (v. 4-5)

The “*abiding*” relationship is that of *dependence*. It is a relationship of whole-hearted trusting. The object of our trust is our life-source.

b. Our dependency in _____ (v. 7)

Abiding in Christ is the secret to a successful prayer life. The closer we get to God, the more we learn to think His thoughts.

3. To remind us of our _____ (John 15:8)

Notice the progression in these verses...



Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your **Father** which is in heaven.

Paul's prayer for the saints at Philippi is seen in Philippians 1:9

4. To remind us of our _____ (John 15:9-10)

a. Our Responsibility is to _____ Him

God desires that His followers follow Him and obey Him. We are commanded to follow His lead *"even as [He] kept [His] Father's commandments, and abode in His love."*

John 8:29 And **He** that sent **Me** is with **Me**: the **Father** hath not left **Me** alone; for I do always those things that please **Him**.

b. Our Responsibility is to _____ Him

John 14:15 If ye love **Me**, keep **My** commandments.

Cf. John 14:21

c. Our Responsibility is to treat Him as our _____

5. To remind us of our *Savior's* _____ (v. 11)

Man's joy is to be completed in their abiding in Christ. This is "above the sun" theology as opposed to "under the sun" philosophy. Man says that you will be most happy in power, possessions and prestige or honor. God says, "you will be most happy when you learn to rest in Me."

C. _____ does He want me to do? (Isaiah 6)

1. Consider what Isaiah _____ (v. 1-4)

a. God's glory (v. 1)

b. God's holiness (v. 2-4)

2. Consider what Isaiah _____ (v. 5-8)

A right view of God will lead to a right view of self.

a. He confessed his sin (v. 5)

Job 42:5-6 I have heard of **Thee** by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth **Thee**. **6** Wherefore I abhor *myself*, and repent in dust and ashes.

b. He was commissioned to serve (v. 8)

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Blessed *be* **God**, even the **Father** of our **Lord Jesus Christ**, the **Father** of mercies, and the **God** of all comfort; **4** Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of **God**.

 <p>PINE ISLAND BIBLECHURCH</p>	<p>9 Little Brooklyn Rd, Warwick, NY 10990 pastor@PIBCNY.com / www.PIBCNY.com / John Lashuay, Pastor</p>
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