

## The Christian Life: A Bed of Roses?

Romans 8:17-25

### Introduction:

#### ●Valentine's

1. Originally a f\_\_\_\_\_ day honoring St. Valentine
2. Became a day of romance because of a p\_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Traditional gifts are f\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. The most popular flower is the r\_\_\_\_\_ (why?)

#### ●Is the Christian life supposed to be a "bed of roses"?

1. False picture given by many p\_\_\_\_\_ – *if you accept Christ and obey Him, you will be healthy and wealthy.*
2. True picture given by God's word – *the Christian life is the best life you can have, but it is full of t\_\_\_\_\_.*

### Suffering is Absolutely Necessary (17b)

#### ●We are... fellow heirs with Christ if indeed we suffer with Him

1. The condition of suffering with Christ is assumed to be true:
  - a. This DOES NOT mean that we have to suffer with Christ first before becoming a c\_\_\_\_\_ of God (Jn 1:12)
  - b. This DOES NOT mean that we have to suffer with Christ first before becoming an h\_\_\_\_\_ of God (I Pet 1:4)
  - c. This DOES mean that every true child of God and heir of God will s\_\_\_\_\_ with Christ in life.
2. The letter to the Romans was written when N\_\_\_\_\_ was Emperor of Rome
  - a. Nero tried to make Christianity i\_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. His efforts encouraged Roman officials and Jewish leaders to treat Christians u\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Suffering for Christ's sake is a g\_\_\_\_\_ (Phil 1:29)
  - a. We deserve the suffering of our own s\_\_\_\_\_ - yet Christ gave us the gift of "believing in Him"
  - b. We don't deserve the suffering for C\_\_\_\_\_ sake – the world gives this gift

#### ●Suffering for Christ's sake is a necessary part of the Christian life

1. Jn 15:19 – the world hates us because we are not of the world
2. Jn 16:33 – while in this world we will have t\_\_\_\_\_
3. Acts 14:22 – we must enter the kingdom of God through m\_\_\_\_\_ tribulations (afflictions, troubles).

#### ●How is suffering for being a Christian suffering with Christ?

1. Christ's suffering on the cross was in p\_\_\_\_\_ of us.
2. Christ suffers when we suffer on this earth because:
  - a. He is connected with us through the H\_\_\_\_\_ Spirit.
  - b. He identifies with our s\_\_\_\_\_ and feels what we feel, always being with us and never abandoning us (Matt 28:19; Heb 13:5).

#### ●Application

1. Everyone will suffer in this life, whether a believer or not; the difference is that the believer suffers w\_\_\_\_\_ Christ and the unbeliever without Christ.
2. If you do suffer in this life, make sure it is not because of your personal s\_\_\_\_\_ (I Pet 4:14-16)
3. If you are suffering because you are a Christian than g\_\_\_\_\_ God (I Pet 4:16)
4. Remember that God will use all your suffering for your g\_\_\_\_\_, which is your spiritual growth (Rom 8:28; Jms 1:2-4) and to draw others to Him (Matt 5:16).

## Suffering is Relatively Brief (18,24,25)

### ● Adopt God's perspective on your suffering

1. Our sufferings are not even worth comparing to our f\_\_\_\_\_ glory (18)
  - a. How long can your suffering last? - \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. How long will your future glory last? - \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Draw a 100 foot line that represents a combination of your earthly life and your future life with Christ – graph your sufferings.
2. H\_\_\_\_\_ is a powerful motivator (24,25)
  - a. An unbeliever can hope about the things of the next life, but his hope is merely a w\_\_\_\_\_ that will never happen.
  - b. A believer's hope about the next life is c\_\_\_\_\_ because God fulfills ALL his promises (see Rom 5:5)
  - c. Biblical hope helps us e\_\_\_\_\_ our present sufferings and enables our faith to shine!

### ● Do you have the proper perspective on your current suffering?

***No life is without thorns.  
The Christian life is a bed of roses,  
the best life you can have with thorns!***