

# Finding Peace Among Suffering and Trial

## “Peace from the Cross”

### Lesson 4

Lesson 1 – “Peace, What Is It?”

Lesson 2 – “Peace: Worship and Devotion”

Lesson 3 – “Suffering and Trial... with Peace?”

Lesson 4 – “Peace from the Cross”

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### Review Lesson 3

Dietrich Bonhoeffer –

- Do we avoid suffering at all costs?
- Do we understand the peace from the cross?

Romans 5:1-11 –

- Paul explains that from faith we have peace with God
- We can boast in our tribulation, because it builds endurance, character and hope
- Even though we were once enemies, we are reconciled to God in a personal way

Romans 8:1-39 –

- In Christ, we are no longer condemned, but instead adopted as God’s children
- Our sufferings are not comparable to our future glory
- All things work together for good, and nothing can separate from God’s love

Takeaway – None of us love to suffer or go through trials, but the key is to place our trust in God over anything else. Peace comes in knowing God is not our enemy but our loving Father.

### Bible Study

Theology of Glory and the Theology of the Cross <sup>1</sup>

- Theology = God talk (talk about, with and for God)
- Theology of Glory = a way of thinking and talking about God that focuses on our glory and works
  - o “The human desire to know God only in external triumphs, which scorns His deeper revelation in the cross”<sup>2</sup>
- Theology of the Cross = a way of thinking and talking about God that focuses on Jesus and the way of suffering and weakness
  - o “The Bible’s truth that God reveals Himself most deeply in weakness and suffering, especially the incarnation, suffering, and death of Christ and the humble realities of the Means of Grace.”<sup>3</sup>



- “Theology of the cross says that we are dead, helpless, and incapable of approaching God. God’s love responds to my need, not my effort.”<sup>4</sup>
- *“The cross [we bear], therefore, is not a punishment but an exercise and preparation for renewal. For when present sin is put to death and when in the midst of temptations we learn to seek the aid of God and experience God’s presence, we acknowledge more and more the lack of trust in our own hearts and we encourage ourselves by faith.”*<sup>5</sup>

**Romans 5:6; 8** – We are weak and sinful, but Christ died for us anyway

**1 Corinthians 1:17-25** – The foolishness of the cross

**Matthew 11:25-30** – God reveals Himself to children not the wise and powerful

**John 20:19-21** – the first word of Jesus after the resurrection... “Peace to you all...”

**John 14:27**

**John 16:33**

**Philippians 3:17-21** Walk in Paul’s example of weakness and suffering, as we look forward to our citizenship in heaven.

**Philippians 4:7** – Peace that passes understanding

**Takeaway** – my suffering and trial is filtered through the cross of Christ, which keeps me humble. I have no standing before God, but peace through His work.

**References:**

- <sup>1</sup> Forde, Gerhard O., *On Being a Theologian of the Cross: Reflections on Luther’s Heidelberg Disputation, 1518*, Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, MI, 1997.
- <sup>2</sup> Engelbrecht, E. A. (2009). *The Lutheran Study Bible* (p. 837). St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House.
- <sup>3</sup> Engelbrecht, E. A. (2009). *The Lutheran Study Bible* (p. 837). St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House.
- <sup>4</sup> Brandt, Phil, (2005), Easter VI.05.10.2015 Document
- <sup>5</sup> Kolb, R., Wengert, T. J., & Arand, C. P. (2000). *The Book of Concord: the confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church* (p. 214). Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press.
- Opening prayer: Gerhard, Johann; translated by Harrison, Matthew (1992, 2003), *Meditations on Divine Mercy: A Classic Treasury of Devotional Prayers*, (pp. 96-97) St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House.