



SERMON NOTES

Settling In

Sermon Series • September 13-20

Week 1 (September 13): "The Problem of Suffering?"
John 1:14; 9:1-5; Mark 2:5, 7, 9-10; Romans 5:12, 17; 8:18, 22-24; Philippians 2:6, 8; Hebrews 4:15-16.

I. The Paradox

- A. C.S. Lewis said "pain is God's _____ to rouse a deaf world."
- B. The Stockdale paradox: Never give up hope, but never deceive yourself about your current _____.
- C. The brutal fact of Christianity is that there is a global relationship between _____ and suffering.

II. A Global Problem

- A. Jesus said that the global presence of sin in the world resulted in _____. (John 9:1-5)
- B. Jesus demonstrates that someone more _____ than the global consequences of sin had arrived.
- C. If you divorce your hope in Christ from the fact of the global consequences of sin, you run the risk of _____ your faith.

III. Our Hope

- A. We reign in life by following the one who offered real life and the _____ solution to sin.
- B. God promises to give you _____ and mercy in time of need.
- C. The ultimate _____ is that Jesus came to Earth not only to die for our sins but to demonstrate He has the power over the global consequences of sin.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message

ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

Some people lose faith because they experience pain and suffering in this world. But what if the ultimate issue in this world is not illness, sickness or pain? What if there is a bigger issue and God has already addressed it? Understanding the ultimate problem and the solution will lead you to hope. But what is the problem and solution?

Monday: John 9:1-5

How does this account address the myth that good things happen to good people, while bad things happen to sinners?

Tuesday: Job 1:20-22, 42:1-8

In chapter 42, Job saw that he needed more than the “why” answers he asked God for (which never came). God said Job’s friends’ answers had “not spoken rightly” (Job 42:7). Have well-meaning friends ever given glib explanations of your suffering? What is, or has been, your go-to explanation for why good people suffer?

Wednesday: Romans 8:18-28

“Paul is not expressing a... superficial optimism that everything tends to everybody’s good in the end.” (Stott, *The Message of Romans*) Verse 28 does not say (as some think) that “everything” is good, but that God works for our good in everything. When in your life has God’s power brought good out of what was clearly a bad thing?

Thursday: Hebrews 4:14-16

According to verse 14, why should we remain faithful during seasons of suffering? According to verse 16, what can we expect from God during seasons of suffering?

Friday: Job 2:1-10

Job maintains his faith during the worst season of his life, but his wife has lost her faith (v. 9). Has suffering ever chipped away at your faith? If left unaddressed, what is currently happening in your life that has the potential to undermine your faith?

MOVING FORWARD

The brutal fact of Christianity is that there is a global relationship between sin and suffering. Christians have never believed in a God who doesn’t allow bad things to happen to good people. If you divorce your hope in Christ from the fact of the global consequences of sin, you run the risk of losing your faith. The ultimate hope is that Jesus came to Earth not only to die for our sins but to demonstrate He has the power over the global consequences of sin. Follow Jesus and you will reign in life despite your circumstances.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) megaphone, B) reality C) sin. IIA) illness, B) powerful, IIC) losing. IIIA) ultimate, B) grace, C) hope.

90 Day Bible Reading Challenge

“Key Themes” Bible Reading Plan

The ‘key theme’ for this week’s scripture passage is ‘Obedience.’ Read the applicable scripture passage for each day below using the ‘SOAP’ method of reading scripture.

Scripture - First read the scripture passage.

Observation - Think about what you just read and find one thing you think God wanted you to hear that’s relevant to your life and write it down.

Application - Think about what you need to do differently as a result of what you just read and write it down.

Pray - Pray about what you just read.

Week of September 13, 2020

Monday: Deuteronomy 30

Tuesday: 1 Samuel 15

Wednesday: Jeremiah 35

Thursday: Acts 5

Friday: 1 Peter 4

Full Key Themes Plan

	Topic	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
July 13 - July 17	<i>Grace</i>	Ephesians 1	1 Timothy 1	2 Timothy 1	1 Peter 1	1 Peter 5
July 20 - July 24	<i>Judgment</i>	Psalm 9	Isaiah 5	Matthew 23	1 Corinthians 3	1 John 4
July 27 - July 31	<i>Love</i>	Psalm 136	John 15	1 Corinthians 13	1 John 2	1 John 3
Aug 3 - Aug 7	<i>Blood</i>	Leviticus 4	Luke 22	Romans 5	Hebrews 9	Revelation 1
Aug 10 - Aug 14	<i>God’s Name</i>	1 Kings 8	Psalm 113	Isaiah 48	Ezekiel 20	Philippians 2
Aug 17 - Aug 21	<i>Prayer</i>	Psalm 102	Matthew 6	Daniel 9	Luke 18	Revelation 8
Aug 24 - Aug 28	<i>Care for Needy</i>	Leviticus 25	Psalm 10	Psalm 82	2 Corinthians 9	1 Timothy 5
Aug 31 - Sept 4	<i>Worship</i>	Psalm 29	Psalm 100	1 Corinthians 14	1 Timothy 2	Revelation 4
Sept 7 - Sept 11	<i>One Another</i>	John 13	Romans 13	Romans 15	1 Peter 3	1 John 1
Sept 14 - Sept 18	<i>Obedience</i>	Deuteronomy 30	1 Samuel 15	Jeremiah 35	Acts 5	1 Peter 4
Sept 21 - Sept 25	<i>Forgiveness</i>	Psalm 25	Psalm 32	Luke 6	Acts 10	Colossians 2
Sept 28 - Oct 2	<i>Faith</i>	Psalm 116	Romans 3	Romans 4	Galatians 3	Hebrews 11
Oct 5 - Oct 9	<i>Believe</i>	John 6	John 11	John 12	John 20	Romans 10

As developed by LCBC Church. Also available on the YouVersion Bible app and website.