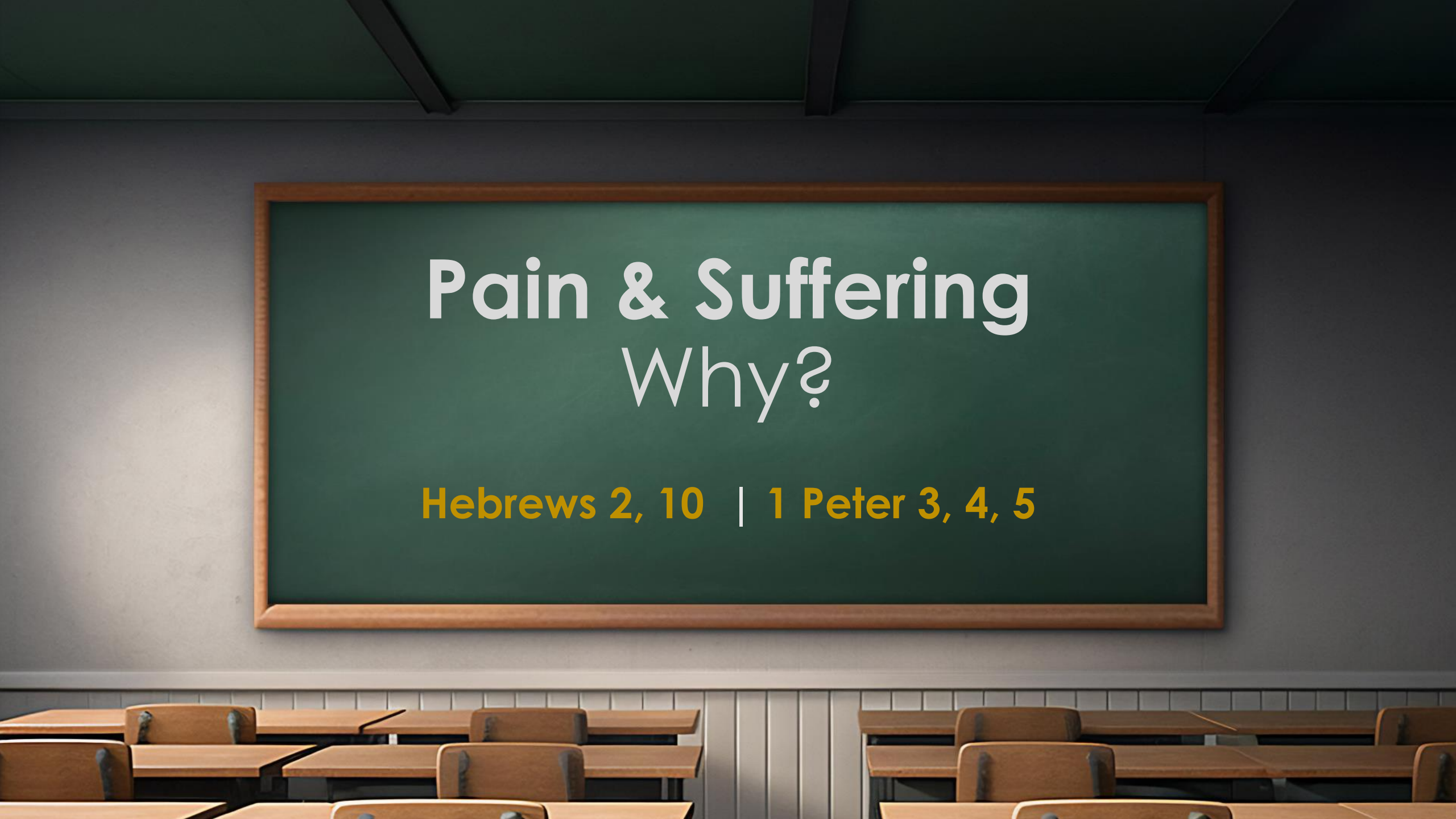
BELIEF



=REASONABLE


Pain & Suffering
Why?
Hebrews 2, 10 | 1 Peter 3, 4, 5

Pain & Suffering
Why?

J.R.R. Tolkien

“It’s a dangerous business, Frodo, going out your door!”

This world is full of pain and suffering.
You don’t even have to “go out your door”
to encounter it.



Pain & Suffering
Why?

What is your definition of pain & suffering?

Webster isn't much help:

SUFFERING - 1) the state or experience of one that suffers 2) Pain

PAIN - 1) a localized or generalized unpleasant bodily sensation or complex of sensations that causes mild to severe physical discomfort and emotional distress and typically results from bodily disorder (such as injury or disease).

2) mental or emotional distress or suffering



Pain & Suffering
Why?

Point: What does it mean to suffer or experience pain?
Based on what?

Problem / Accusation: If God created pain & suffering
- then He is evil

If God permits pain & suffering
- then He is not love, He does not love



Pain & Suffering
Why?

Problem: Our view of God and what we expect Him to be to us and give us:

C.S. Lewis in the Problem of Pain: ***"By the goodness of God we mean nowadays almost exclusively <u>His lovingness</u>; and in this we may be right. And by Love, in this context, most of us mean kindness—the desire to see others than the self happy; not happy in this way or in that, but just happy. What would really satisfy us would be a God who said of anything we happened to like doing, 'What does it matter so long as they are contented? (happy)' We want, in fact, not so much a Father in Heaven as a grandfather in heaven—a senile benevolence who, as they say, 'liked to see young people enjoying themselves' and whose plan for the universe was simply that it might be truly said at the end of each day, 'a good time was had by all'."***



Pain & Suffering
Why?

Hebrews 10:1-17

The Law is not sufficient **Hebrews 10:1-7**

Why was there need for the Law?

10:17 “their lawless deeds”

Why is there Pain & Suffering?

1) First, God created us in a state of health & joy.

2) Second, man chose sin / lawlessness



Pain & Suffering
Why?

"The problem of reconciling human suffering with the existence of a God who loves, is only insoluble so long as we attach a trivial meaning to the word "love" and look on things as if man were the centre of them."

(CS Lewis, The Problem of Pain)



Pain & Suffering
Why?

Hebrews 10:1-17

The Law is not sufficient **Hebrews 10:1-7**

Jesus Christ came to bring a solution to Pain & Suffering **Hebrews 10:8-17**

Through Pain & Suffering - His own Pain & Suffering



Pain & Suffering
Why?

Repeat & Expand

Reasons for Suffering & Pain

1) We live in a Fallen World
2) Not all Pain & Suffering is bad
3) Pain is sometimes God's grace in Waking us up

Famously Lewis wrote: "***God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts to us in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.***"



Pain & Suffering
Why?

4. Pain & Suffering are agents of Grace Driving fallen man to a saving God:

Again Lewis in the Problem of Pain: "*Until the evil man finds evil unmistakably present in his existence, in the form of pain, he is enclosed in illusion. Once pain has roused him, he knows that he is in some way or other 'up against' the real universe: he either rebels (with the possibility of a clearer issue and deep repentance at some other stage) or else makes some attempting at an adjustment, which, if pursued, will lead him to religion*."



Pain & Suffering
Why?

5) God transforms we fallen creatures through Pain & Suffering in this fallen World:

Even the unsaved understand to a degree:

Aldous Huxley in Brave New World: "You got rid of them. Yes, that's just like you. Getting rid of everything unpleasant instead of learning to put up with it. Whether 'tis better in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows or outrageous fortune, or to take arms against a sea of troubles and by opposing end them...But you don't do either. Neither suffer nor oppose. You just abolish the slings and arrows. It's too easy."



Pain & Suffering
Why?

The Solution
– Jesus Christ Suffered for Us

Jesus defeated pain and suffering
through pain and suffering.



Pain & Suffering
Why?

CONSIDER JESUS!

Hebrews12:3 "For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against himself."

Hebrews 2:9-10 "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting for Him, for whom *are* all things and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings."



Pain & Suffering
Why?

CONSIDER JESUS!

Hebrews 2:14 "Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.

Hebrews 5:7-10 "In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek



Pain & Suffering
Why?

Participating in His Suffering is Part of His Perfect Plan for our Discipleship

Matthew 5:10-12 "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs. You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of Me. Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven."

COPY JESUS!

Hebrews 12:3 "For consider him who endured such hostility from sinners against himself, so that you won't grow weary and give up. In struggling against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood."



Pain & Suffering
Why?

COPY JESUS!
Christ our Example / Substitute

1 Peter 2:21-25 "For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps."

Hebrews 13:12-13. "So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured."



Pain & Suffering
Why?

1 Peter 3:14 “But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, *you are* blessed. *"And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."*

1 Peter 3:17 “For *it is* better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.”

1 Peter 4:1-2 “Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.”



Pain & Suffering
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1 Peter 4:19 "Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in doing good, as to a faithful Creator."

1 Peter 5:10 "And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you."

Romans 8:18 "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us."



Pain & Suffering
Why?

So, the Ultimate Questions should Not Be:

Why is there pain and suffering in this world?

- or -

Why doesn't God just eradicate pain and suffering if he is good?



Pain & Suffering
Why?

The real questions should be:

What kind of love is this that is expressed in the eternal good God in sending his only Son into this sin ravaged world to suffer its pain and degradation in our place, even to point of death and the death of the cross? - - for cursed is anyone who hangs on a cross.



Pain & Suffering
Why?

The real questions should be:

Why would I not, in repentance, run after this loving Savior who can ultimately remove my pain and suffering for all of eternity, since he was willing to endure the pain and suffering I deserved to the nth degree? - of which I will never understand even in eternity.



Pain & Suffering
Why?

Our Final Hope

Revelation 21:3-4 "And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, **or pain**; the first things have passed away."

