

I Thess 3:1-9 MURPHY'S LAW AND THE CHRISTIAN

Christians aren't exempt from Murphy's Law! In fact, we're _____ that we'll experience it!

I. YOU WILL EXPERIENCE PAIN AND SUFFERING AS LONG AS YOU ARE IN THIS WORLD.

Review: Believing the Bible will bring opposition. I Thess 2:14

A. Believers are promised opposition! John 16:33 - In this world you will have trouble. Mark 13:13 – “everyone will hate you because of Me....”

I Thes. 3:3b – “destined for them (trials)”

Heb. 12:4 – we haven't suffered to the point of shedding our blood!

B. Sometimes the opposition comes from “your own _____” (NIV)

C. _____ is always behind it. v. 18

II. PAIN AND SUFFERING CAN UNSETTLE YOU – v. 3

“unsettled” means to “_____ the _____” - being shaken so hard by circumstances that you lose your balance.

“trial” means “under the thumb”- because of pressure from above.

Paul knew trials can lead to deception – v. 5 –maybe the biggest temptation is just to _____.

III. IT IS POSSIBLE TO _____ DURING PAIN AND SUFFERING – in fact, that is God's plan! V. 6-10

Rom. 5:3,4 - ³Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

James 1:2-5 - ²Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you

I Peter 4:12-16 - ¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

The key is our attitude, fed by our _____.

“When hard times come, be a _____, not a victim.”

Not “Why me?” but “Why not me? What makes me think I should be exempt from the trials of life?”

Not “why me?” but “What can I _____”, and “_____ can I help with what I’m learning?”

How can we maintain our faith to feed a proper attitude toward pain and suffering?

A. Find people who _____ you and hang around them!
V. 2 - Timothy was sent to strengthen (“to make firm or solid”) and encourage – (“called alongside to help”.). “_____ with you through it”

B. Become aware of the faith of _____ – v. 7
Feed your mind and spirit with “faith success stories.”

C. Hang on to _____ – v. 7,8

CLOSING QUESTIONS:

When you go through hard times, what – or who – encourages you the most? Be aware of this, so you can access it when you need it!!

Whom could YOU encourage who is going through hard times? How? Listen, pray, send a card, email, text, visit, etc.

