

DAY 5 MONDAY

HEBREWS 2:10 PERFECTING THE PERFECT ONE

¹⁰ *In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.*

How can what is perfect be made more perfect?

Perhaps the answer lies in the filling of a specific role. The Son of God is perfect in all ways, as the Son of God. But the Son of God, as the incarnate author of human salvation could not perfectly fulfill that role without becoming human, a major characteristic of which is experiencing suffering. In addition, there is the matter of perfect obedience to the Father. In a sin-filled world, the consequence of perfect obedience will be suffering, and the proof will be remaining obedient regardless of the consequences. Finally, in order to be the vicarious sacrifice for sinners, Jesus had to be not only perfectly obedient, but he had to suffer the curse in our place. Without suffering there is no sacrifice.

How does suffering work in our lives?

We experience suffering in several different roles. As sinful perpetrators of that which is wrong, we suffer justly for our transgressions. Yet even here such suffering can cause us to realize our error and turn us back to the path of obedience. As victims of worldly violence, disease and betrayal, we suffer in communion with a fallen world. Since all we know is a fallen creation and fallen creatures, such suffering is a common experience to all human beings. But God can redeem that by giving us a peace in our circumstances that the world without God cannot know or understand. As obedient followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to live lives characterized by self-sacrificial love. This is the suffering that is informed by our faith in God, and which testifies to the world of the steadfast love of God. In the history of the Church it has been the blood of the martyrs that has spoken to the world the loudest testimony to the Truth.

As disciples of Christ, may we do all in our power to assure that our suffering is due to our obedience to God, and that it points to the salvation that comes through the sacrificial suffering of the Son of God.

Who am I Lord to come to you whining about the suffering that I have brought on myself through my disobedient choices, or that which is common to all human beings? As you through your grace and mercy suffered rejection and death for me, make me look to you to guide my life and give me a transformed attitude toward suffering for my neighbor and my God. Grow my faith and your kingdom in and through my life. Amen.