

WHEN SUFFERING TESTS OUR FAITH, PART TWO

2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-17 (ESV)

I. Deep suffering reiterates what God has promised:

- A. That the _____ God walks with us in our suffering.
- B. That He uses suffering to _____ our trust in Him.
- C. That our relief and rest will come when our _____ King returns.

II. When we're suffering, it's easy to grab onto false promises that (a)

_____ hope or (b) offer _____ hope.

A. The past and present history of the Church has no shortage of preachers and teachers with _____ explanations of God and suffering.

1. False teaching often comes under the guise of new

_____ of Scripture or new _____ from God.

2. While God was actively revealing new truth during the

_____ of the New Testament, the immediately following generations understood that revelation to have _____.

B. In light of that history, we believe that...

1. New revelations ceased with the _____ of the apostles and

2. All teaching must be _____ against the clear teaching of Scripture.

C. When a passage of Scripture has been interpreted in myriad conflicting ways through the centuries, we are wise...

1. To interpret the text _____,
2. To allow other Christians _____ within the bounds of reason,
3. To remember the main _____ of the text, and
4. To pay attention to important _____ that undergird hard-to-interpret statements.

III. Difficult seasons of suffering are easier to endure, when you

_____ the _____ of our current place in human history.

A. Paul describes this era between the Ascension and return of Jesus as having a _____ between two mysterious, _____ invisible forces:

1. The mystery of the Gospel: the progressive _____ of the Gospel to all _____ groups (Rom 11:25, Col 1:23-29, Eph 3.1-13; cf. Matt 24:14).
2. The mystery of lawlessness: constant opposition to the spread of the Gospel through _____ that leads to _____ living
3. All of Satan's machinations are _____ by God's plan (vs. 9) and do not _____ His sovereignty (vss. 11-12).

B. Despite this tension, God's _____ in the world will _____ unimpeded.

1. God will never _____ His people. He is pursuing them!
2. Human history will end with God's people entering His _____.