

## Three Responses to Suffering 2 Corinthians 4:8-12;17

The reality of suffering is all around us. We cannot deny it. Yet, as we attempt to cope with the pain and suffering in our life, the prescribed response by our culture simply isn't good enough. We must trust in a hope greater than the momentary happiness offered to us, and for that reason, we turn to the Word of God for answers. Though many think God has no response to the pain and suffering in this world, we see that he offers the greatest solution.

### **Cultural Response**

1. Avoid pain, seek happiness
2. Become apathetic

Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...

So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

### **God's Reaction**

1. In the Past – shows grace
2. In the Future – judges sin and restores
3. In between – sends his Son

2 Corinthians 4:8-10

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

2 Corinthians 4:11-12

For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen.