



“Paradox of Suffering”

“God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but *shouts* in our *pain*, it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.” C. S. Lewis

“You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end – which you can never afford to lose – with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be .” Admiral Stockdale

It is not the _____ or _____ of difficulty, but how you _____ with the _____ that will keep you going

There is a cause and effect _____ between ___ and _

What is difficult to get our mind around is the cause-and-effect relationship between _____ and _____

John 9:1-4 “As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

“Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.”

_____ is the _____ to the _____

John 9:4 “As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.” ...”While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

Christian paradox :

we have _____ ; and we must remember that _____ has impacted the _____

Romans 5:1 “Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned....”

Romans 5:17 “For if, by the trespass of the one man (Adam), death reigned.. Through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ!”

Hebrews 4:16 “Let us approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need”

Romans 8:18-24 “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us....(v.22) “we know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth up the present time. ... we ourselves ... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope (Jesus) we were saved.”

❖ Questions to talk over at lunch....

What is your explanation for why _____ ?

How does the Christian understanding that _____ impacts everyone, good and bad, affect your faith?