

I. Abundant Life is Not an Easy Life

- A. Suffering is a hard reality of life
- B. Suffering is a hard reality of abundant life

II. Why Do People Who Know God and Experience Abundant Life Still Suffer?

- A. Because we are still imperfect beings
 - 1. Romans 8:1 – *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus*
 - 2. We have flesh which afflicts
 - 3. We have personality limitations
- B. Because we are dying
 - 1. Our bodies wear out – *All flesh is grass*
 - 2. Our bodies experience pain
- C. Because as Christians we have tasted of the world to come
 - 1. We know the potential for salvation
 - 2. We cannot make that salvation real in people we love
- D. Because we belong to God in a devil driven world
 - 1. All those who live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution

III. In Answer to Our Pain God Offers Hope

A. Hope is the assurance of what God has for us in the future

B. How does hope answer our sufferings

1. Concerning our infirmities and sins – *There is therefore now no condemnation*
 - a. Because of this the love of God is irremovably upon us
2. Concerning our dying bodies
 - a. Hope of the resurrection
 - b. Assurance of an ultimate inheritance
 - c. Complete deliverance from the effects of the fall
3. Concerning our lack of capacity to help
 - a. Access to the throne of grace
 - b. Assurance of help when we pray
4. Concerning our suffering for the sake of the name
 - a. God is working it all together for good
 - (1) This covers every area of suffering
 - b. The love of God for us in Christ is an unchangeable reality

IV. The Christian Life is a Life Which Involves Suffering

A. Because of the hope of God gives us we can have joy in the midst of it all

B. Because of the hope of God gives us we can serve those around us in the midst of it all