

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

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SERMON OUTLINE

DOES JESUS REALLY LOVE ME WHEN ALL I EXPERIENCE ARE HEARTACHES?

SELECTED PASSAGES
REV. LITO VILLORIA

God is love. Love is the primary attribute of God (1 John 4:8, 16). Our loving God always seeks the good of His people.

A biblical survey of the concept of God's love towards His human creation reveals that it is not just like the human emotion but more of a divine revelation of His character. In

PERSEVERE IN JESUS

REV. MARK MAGANGAT

Last week, I received a message that someone from one of our LGGs contemplated ending his life. The weight of this revelation settled heavily upon me, prompting an immediate and concerted effort to reach out, provide support, and ensure his well-being. This struck me because this is a reality that people face today. This incident made me reflect that our journey is often marked by peaks of joy and valleys of despair, where individuals grapple with overwhelming burdens. The stark reality of taking one's life draws our attention to the frailty of human existence, urging us to anchor ourselves on the unshakable truth of who Jesus is. I hope that he will find the strength to overcome difficult times such as these.

Life's journey is often characterized by trials and challenges that can test our faith. These circumstances may shake the very foundations of our beliefs. In the face of adversity, the call to persevere in Jesus becomes not just a choice but our lifeline that anchors us on the unchanging truth of His Word. The storms of life may threaten to overwhelm us, but with Jesus as our cornerstone, we can stand firm even in the midst of challenges.

When we face challenges, we are reminded that Jesus is not merely a distant figure but the very

the Old Testament, God's love is manifested in His faithfulness (Psalm 103:17), graciousness (Psalm 52:8), goodness (Psalm 106:1) and mercy (Micah 7:18). In the New Testament, it is expressed in man's salvation (1 John 3:16; 4:9-10), adoption (1 John 3:1), and preservation (Romans 8:39). God's people are exhorted to give thanks to the Lord for His love endures forever (Psalm 136:1)

While these biblical concepts are true, we need to realize that God does not spare His own people from heartaches. But God is gracious not to allow His people to experience pain without any purpose. The New Testament reveals three divine purposes for human suffering: (1) transformation of our character (2 Corinthians 4:16-18); (2) strengthening of our faith (James 1:2-4); and (3) glorification of God (1 Peter 1:6-7).

We have different circumstances

in life. There are those who live generally peaceful lives, while others live in constant pain. People respond differently when they experience pain. On one end of the spectrum are those who respond in faith. They may not understand why such things happen, but they accept it as from the Lord. On the other end of the spectrum are those who reject God. They cannot accept their painful circumstances; they become bitter towards God, and some even turn away from their faith.

On both ends of the spectrum, people often wrestle with the question, "Does Jesus really love me when all I experience are heartaches?" This is a valid question to ask for we cannot deny people of the emotions they feel. In this sermon, we will seek to provide an answer to this real question and by God's grace learn a proper perspective on how we should respond in seasons of heartaches. ✨

PARSON TO PERSON

essence of our faith, the anchor that holds us steady in the chaotic realities of life. How, then, should we fortify our perseverance in Jesus?

Firstly, recognize **the sovereignty of God**. This is a fundamental truth that highlights our trust in Him. The Scriptures affirm that God is in control of all things. He is working out His purposes under His divine plan. Thus, even with the seemingly insurmountable challenges, trusting in God's sovereignty gives us a sense of profound peace. Jeremiah 32:27 (ESV) assures us, "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?" **This truth anchors us in the assurance that, despite the storms, God's overarching plan is unfolding, and He remains faithful to His promises.**

Secondly, realize **the redemptive power of Christ's sacrifice**. The Cross stands as the ultimate symbol of God's love and forgiveness. This, too, is the cornerstone of our faith. Through Christ's sacrifice, we are reconciled to God, and our sins are forgiven. Hebrews 4:16 encourages us to approach God's throne of grace with confidence, knowing that Jesus, our high priest, understands our weaknesses. **This truth empowers us to persevere and be secure in the knowledge that the Cross has provided both**

forgiveness and the strength to endure life's challenges.

Lastly, rest in **the indwelling of the Holy Spirit**. This is the transformative truth that enables us to persevere. As believers, we are not left to live life with all its difficulties on our own strength. The Holy Spirit, as promised by Jesus, dwells within us, providing guidance, comfort, and empowerment. **Recognizing the presence of the Holy Spirit within us strengthens our resolve to persevere in Jesus, drawing upon His divine power.**

Beloved in the Lord, the call to persevere in Jesus is rooted in Christ's unshakable foundation, the assurance of God's promises, and the love and support of the church family. As we stand firm in faith, we become beacons of hope, inspiring others to seek and embrace Jesus's unwavering love.

As we persevere, we become living testimonies of Christ's transformative power, directing others toward the shores of His love and grace. May we actively seek opportunities to share the story of Christ's sacrifice and His redemptive power through a comforting word, a compassionate gesture, or a steadfast presence. Let us all be conduits of God's grace, guiding others to the foot of the cross. ✨

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