

**P504**

**GRACE NOTES**

**SERIES: Why trials?**

**SET 4: The Benefits of Christ's Suffering**

**INTRO: It's incredible to think of what God did to redeem us. The infinite God of the universe, became a finite man in the person of His Son, Jesus. Containing Himself in human flesh alone was a sacrifice, yet Jesus came to earth and lived in poverty, to show us the Father, and to pay the incredible price for our sin. Today on Grace Notes, Barbara Sandbek continues her series "Why Trials?" as she talks about the benefits we receive because of Christ's suffering.**

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**One of the TV shows I like to watch deals with people who are reconciled to their long lost parents. They go through quite an ordeal to find their roots. It's exciting to see their reaction.**

**The greatest blessing we can ever receive from Christ's suffering is to be reconciled to our Heavenly Father and find our roots. This is possible only because of Christ's work on Calvary. Shouldn't we be more excited about this?**

**Jesus said, "If you know me, you know the Father." All of God's character and attributes – His total essence of nature and authority, were contained in Christ.**

**Colossians 1:19 says...**

**God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him(Christ), and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in Heaven, by making peace through His blood shed on the cross.**

**So, why did God, the powerful Creator of the universe cause Christ to suffer through such an ordeal? He could have redeemed us any way He wanted. God used the cross to demonstrate His undeniable love and to woo us to Himself.**

**Can we really understand how GREAT God's love is?**

**John 1 says that Jesus is the fullness of God's Glory. God's Glory is His manifestation of Himself to men. Verse 18 says that Jesus is in the BOSOM of the Father. The bosom is the front of the body between the arms - symbolizing a place of deep affection.  
We feel with our heart.**

**Jesus is not just NEAR the heart of GOD....**

**He is the essence of the HEART of GOD.**

**God gave HIS HEART to us when He gave us CHRIST.**

**When those nails pierced Jesus' hands and feet - they pierced God's heart.  
When Jesus wept...God cried.**

**What a LOVE! What a SAVIOR!**

**Jesus willingly condescended from His Heavenly throne to be with us  
2 Corinthians 8:9 says...**

**For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though He was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor so that you through his poverty might become rich.**

**The thing that makes Christianity different from all other religions is grace. God accepts us with no conditions whatsoever when we put our trust in the atoning sacrifice of His incarnate Son. God's grace forgives us completely. It's by His infinite grace that we are saved, not by moral character or works of righteousness.**

**Grace is everything for nothing to those who don't deserve anything.**

**Ever think what would it be like if...**

- God had turned his back on humanity?**
- Christ had said 'no' to the cross or God had stayed his hand when Christ was to die?**

**WE'D BE ETERNALLY LOST - that's what!**

**Christ could have, and by all rights, should have walked on by the cross but He didn't...and how glad I am!**

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**\*\*\* HE COULD HAVE WALKED ON BY \*\*\***  
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**Romans 8:32 says...**

**He who did not spare His own Son, but GAVE HIM UP for us all,  
how will he not also along with Him, graciously give us all things?**

**So, what are the “all things” we can have because of Christ’s sacrifice?**

**Charles Spurgeon summed this verse up so well when he wrote...**

**This is more than a promise. It is a mass of rubies and emeralds  
and diamonds with a nugget of gold for their setting.**

**What can the Lord deny us after giving us Jesus?**

**If we need all things in Heaven and earth, He will grant them to  
us, for if there had been a limit anywhere, He would have kept  
back His own Son.**

**When all you have is Jesus...Jesus is all you need!**

**When we accept Christ’s as our Savior, we can claim Romans 8:1  
which says...**

**There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**

**Colossians 1:20 says...**

**Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your  
minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled  
you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in  
his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.**

**Satan tries to convince us that we’re unworthy and unacceptable in God’s  
eyes and will never amount to anything, but God sees us as redeemed.**

**He considers us righteous – we are no longer sinners.**

**We’re made alive and complete.**

**He gives us the Holy Spirit who establishes, anoints and  
seals us.**

**He gives us the mind of Christ.**

**We’re blessed with every spiritual blessing.**

**We have direct access to God and may approach Him through Christ with freedom and confidence.**

**When we come to Him we can know we'll find the comfort we need.**

**Jesus identified with our sufferings so he empathizes, not just sympathizes with us.**

**Hebrews 4:15-16 says...**

**We have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities for He was in all ways tempted such as we yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

**Jesus understands what you're going through. He went through more pain and suffering that we can ever know. He's been there, done that and then some.**

**I remember once when a friend and I were praying. She was concerned for her son's welfare. He'd been working for thirty hours straight. As I began to pray for him, I could visualize Jesus looking down and seeing his exhaustion. I prayed..."Lord be tired for him." I knew He'd have compassion because He understood exhaustion. I've often prayed for myself saying..."Lord, feel my pain." and I knew in my heart that He would.**

**Nothing comes into the life a Believer without first going through the nail-scarred hands of our Savior.**

**Does Jesus know what you're going through? You bet He does. In fact, He knows better than anyone. He's a friend who sticks closer than a brother.**

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**\*\*\* ONLY GOD KNOWS \*\*\***  
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**Thanks for joining the program.**

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**Sandbek Ministries**

**P.O. Box 581**

**Fallston, MD 21047**

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**If God leads you, please send along a gift to help us stay on this station.**

**Don't miss our next program – Barbara's topic will be "Why do we suffer?"**

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