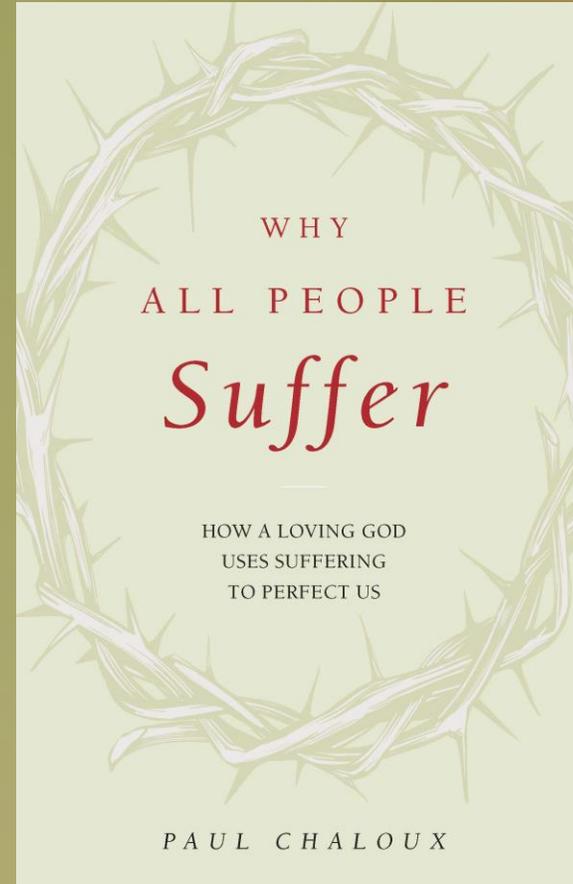


Why All People Suffer

How a loving God Uses
Suffering to Perfect Us

*Book by Dr Paul
Chaloux*





Why are we talking about suffering during Lent?

Because this is the season we enter into the Passion,
Death and Resurrection of the Suffering Servant:

Jesus

What is suffering?

- ❖ The state or experience of one that suffers
- ❖ Pain
- ❖ Distress
- ❖ Misery
- ❖ Agony

Dr Chaloux defines it as:

“the worst experiences of our lives”

True suffering

Is a combination of physical pain with
psychological distress or social
isolation

Ways to suffer:

When I am hungry I need food

When I am injured I feel pain

When I am isolated I feel lonely

When I long for God but don't know that I am made for union with Him, I am spiritually exiled

Why does a loving God
allow us to suffer?!

Some books I read:

Abandonment to Divine Providence

Trustful Surrender

The Science of the Cross

Interior Freedom

And finally, the book that changed my understanding of
suffering

Why All People Suffer:
How a Loving God *Uses* Suffering
to Perfect Us
by
Dr Paul Chaloux

Dr Paul Chaloux

Chemical
engineer - UVA
1982

Certified
Catechist NY -
2014

MA Religious Ed
- Fordham 2015

Phd Moral
Theology
Catholic Univ of
America 2020

Why should we listen to Dr Paul and his ideas on suffering?

- ▶ Born with congenital heart defect, heart surgery at age 5, partially successful
- ▶ Another heart surgery at 17 which left him partially paralyzed in left arm for 6 weeks
- ▶ Got Hepatitis C from blood transfusion, undiagnosed for 25 years
- ▶ From the Hep C treatment he got Celiac disease, nauseous for 13 years
- ▶ In 2015 diagnosed with Parkinson's

Rethinking Suffering

What did I do to deserve this?

How could an all powerful, good God allow suffering to exist?

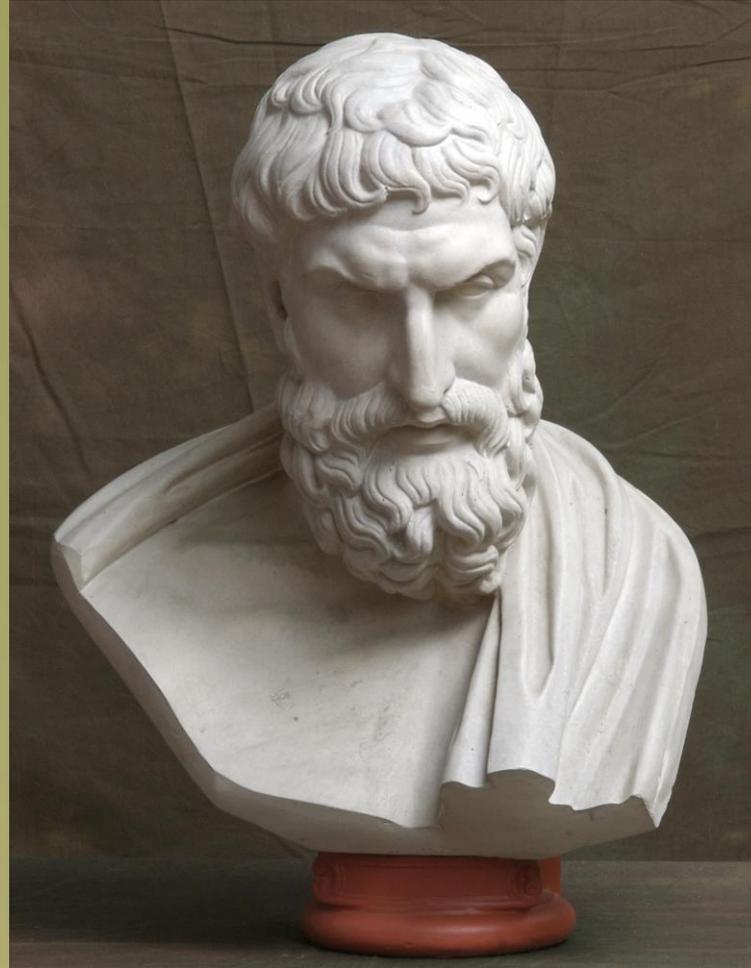
If our earthly fathers protect us from harm, wouldn't our Heavenly Father do the same?

Epicurus

Greek philosopher who lived 300 years before Christ

Wrestled with the problem of suffering and evil

Epicurus



What is our goal in life?

For Christians it is union with God and life eternal with Him. This is what we are made for.

The Beatific Vision

God is love!

We are made in love, for love and to love

In the image and likeness of God

God is infinitely loving and infinitely merciful

Knowing this we experience JOY

Joy and Suffering

Are not opposites

They Coexist

“Joy is not in opposition to suffering:
it is the outcome of meeting its challenges and
completing its tasks. It is our reward for loving as God
loves. “ page 9

The Prodigal Son

This might sound like a vengeful and angry God, but that contradicts the Father we know from the prodigal son parable that Jesus taught.

Next week we will break open the parable and how it relates to suffering and our understanding of suffering.

And we will begin to talk about the four tasks of suffering