



# Surprised by Suffering: The Role of Pain and Death in The Christian Life

*R. C. Sproul*

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## Summary

Suffering often seems to catch us by surprise. One day we are healthy, comfortable, and happy. The next we find ourselves ill or injured, struggling, and distraught. The pain that invades our lives may come from our own suffering or that of a loved one. But no matter the source, we didn't see it coming. All too often, our perplexity prompts us to suspect God of wrongdoing.

In this classic book, republished in a revised and expanded edition, Dr. R. C. Sproul argues that we should not be surprised by suffering; instead, we should expect pain and sorrow in this life. Some are actually called to a "vocation" of suffering, and all of us are called to undergo the ultimate suffering of death. God promises in His Word that difficult times will come upon us, but He also promises that He allows suffering for our good and His glory, and He will never give us more than we can bear with His help.

Dr. Sproul offers solid biblical counsel and comfort for those undergoing suffering and for those who minister to the suffering, counsel that helps believers stand in times of trial with faith in a God who is both loving and good.

## Chapters

- Suffering, Perplexity, and Despair
- Walking the Via Dolorosa
- A Case Study in Suffering
- Purpose in Suffering
- The Final Calling
- Dying in Faith
- Speculations on Life after Death
- Jesus and the Afterlife
- To Die Is Gain
- A Vision of Things to Come
- Conclusion

## Resources

- Appendix: Questions and Answers
- Index of Scripture
- Index of Subjects and Names

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