Recently a friend challenged me to consider the difference between our biblical rights and our political rights.

Did you know that the biblical perspective puts our attention on the world to come: the time when our Savior will reign as King of kings and Lord of lords, rather than our current enjoyment of life? We actually have very few “rights” from a biblical perspective--food and raiment (raiment includes shelter). Furthermore, we are called upon to follow our Savior’s example when it comes to other rights or privileges we may have. He set the standard when it comes to putting others ahead of himself. The Bible records some illustrations of the Apostles and other believers who followed His lead. I am woefully behind.

Let’s renew our effort to see more of Jesus and less of ourselves. Attached are some verses that may help develop our thinking.

My love to you all,

*Dr. Marvin J. Effa*

**Suffering and Entitlement**

Dr. Marvin J. Effa

**Suffering comes to all, Job 5:7.**

Yet man is born to trouble,

As the sparks fly upward.

**All suffering has benefit, Job 33:28-30.**

28He will redeem his soul from going down to the Pit,

And his life shall see the light.

29 “Behold, God works all these *things,*

Twice, *in fact,* three *times* with a man,

30 To bring back his soul from the Pit,

That he may be enlightened with the light of life.

**Every person is humbled by the end of life, Job 40:12.**

12Look on everyone *who is* proud, *and* bring him low;

Tread down the wicked in their place.

**Some suffering is caused by wrong choices, 1 Peter 4:15, 1 Cor. 11:30.**

15But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters.

30For this reason many *are* weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

**Some suffering is caused by right choices, 2 Tim. 3:12.**

12Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

**Suffering with Christ is a prerequisite for reigning with Christ, 2 Tim. 2:12, Heb. 11:23-26, Rom. 8:17.**

12 If we endure, We shall also reign with *Him.*

24By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, 25choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

17and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him,* that we may also be glorified together.

**Christians will avoid the global suffering of the Great Tribulation, 2 Thess:13-14.**

13But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, 14to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

Entitlement

**God has discharged His responsibilities at food and clothing, 1 Tim. 6:7-8.**

7For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. 8And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

**All other rights should be placed behind service of Jesus and the Gospel, and this will be rewarded in Christ’s coming kingdom, 1 Cor 9:5-12, Heb. 6:10, Phil 2:5-11.**

5Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as *do* also the other apostles, *[[1]](#footnote-1)f*the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? 6Or *is it* only Barnabas and I *who* have no right to refrain from working? 7Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock?

8Do I say these things as a *mere* man? Or does not the law say the same also? 9For it is written in the law of Moses, *“You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.”* Is it oxen God is concerned about? 10Or does He say *it* altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, *this* is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. 11If we have sown spiritual things for you, *is it* a great thing if we reap your material things? 12If others are partakers of *this* right over you, *are* we not even more?

Nevertheless, we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

10For God *is* not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, *in that* you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

5Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. 8And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. 9Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)