

SERMON NOTES

What if God Suffers Too?

Hebrews 4:14-15, 5:8, 12:1-3; Isaiah 43:1-3

Philippians 2:1-13, Romans 8:28, 35-37

David Renwick

February 5, 2017

National Presbyterian Church, Washington DC

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,

Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary,

Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried:

He descended into hell;

The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven,

And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholic Church;

The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins;

The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting.

Amen.

The Alexamenos Gaffiti (2nd century)

"Alexamenos worships his God"



Roman historian, Tacitus (Annals 15.44) writes that the Emperor Nero,

"falsely accused and executed . . . those people called Christians who were infamous for their abominations.

The originator of the name, Christ, was executed as a criminal by the Procurator, Pontius Pilate, during the reign of Tiberius."

Hebrews 4:14

. . . we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 5:7-8

7In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. 8Although he was a Son (*divine*), he learned obedience through what he suffered;

Hebrews 12:3

Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

Philippians 2:3-8

3Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. 4Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

5Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

6who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

7but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

8he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death

— even death on a cross.