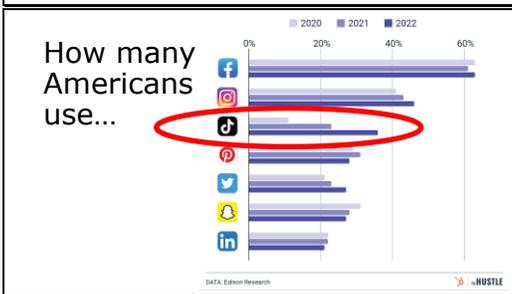
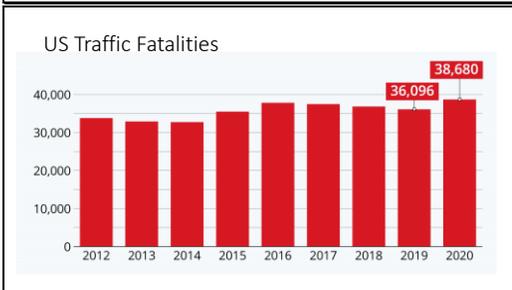


Shocked

Started by Croatian immigrant Joseph Vlasic, the Vlasic brand was handed down to his son, Robert, in 1963. By 1974, per capita US pickle consumption hit eight pounds, up 4x from the 1930s. Under Robert's leadership, Vlasic expanded to 96 kinds of pickles, peppers, relishes, and sauerkrauts. It eventually was taken over by Conagra Brands after going bankrupt as a spinoff from Campbell Soup.



% of US population ages 12+ on major social media platforms

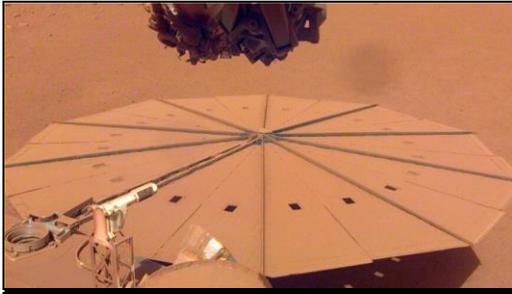


Deaths on U.S. roads soared to 16-year high in 2021
Road fatalities increased more than 10 percent last year compared with a year earlier, reaching 42,915, according to estimates released by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

It was the highest number of deaths on the nation's roads since 2005 and the largest annual percentage increase since at least 1975.

A recent image from NASA's InSight Mars lander shows the accumulation of dust on one of its two solar arrays, causing power levels to drop to critical levels.

Once again, Baltimore is the center of the universe. This week...



engineering students from Johns Hopkins University's Whiting School of Engineering have created what might be the world's first edible sticky tape that can be applied to other foods

Resurrection – Andy Stanley



What is suffering?



Suffering

- Heavy
- Affected
- Experience
- Mind & emotion



Heavy
Affected
Experience
Mind & emotion



Is suffering certain to happen? Is it inevitable?



How prepared are you for suffering?
How do you prepare for it?



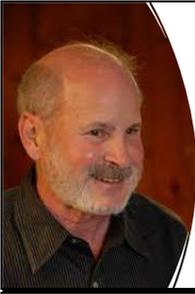
Throughout the history of the world, every culture, every religion, every philosophy

Paul Brand

In the United States I encountered a society that seeks to avoid pain at all costs. Patients in the West lived in far greater comfort level and a level of safety than anyone I'd had previously treated, but they seemed far less equipped to handle the suffering and far more traumatized by it



Paul Brand, British physician that pioneered reconstructive surgery to ease the ravages of leprosy and diabetes on hands and feet, In the United States I encountered a society that seeks to avoid pain at all costs. Patients in the West lived in far greater comfort level and a level of safety than anyone I'd had previously treated, but they seemed far less equipped to handle the suffering and far more traumatized by it



Richard Shweder

Secular culture gives its members by far the least resources for handling suffering

Richard Shweder, an American cultural anthropologist at the University of Chicago
Secular culture gives its members by far the least resources for handling suffering



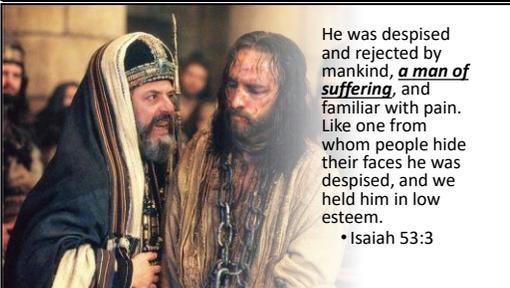
How is the church doing? How has it done?
Here's a video of one pastor.



Just because it's on Christian media, don't just drink it without reading the list of ingredients



So, how do we live, move forward knowing that there is suffering both up ahead and behind?
I think the first thing we have to bite into is that Jesus experienced suffering. It was even predicted about him.



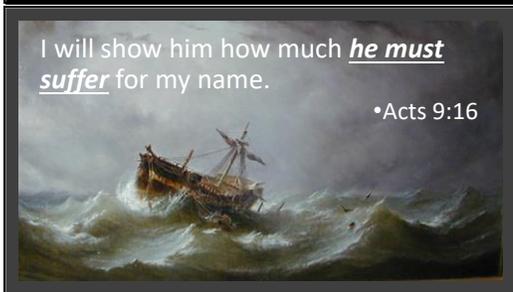
He was despised and rejected by mankind, **a man of suffering**, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.
• Isaiah 53:3

He was despised and rejected by mankind, **a man of suffering**, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.
a man of suffering – not the hero messiah, the strong, conquering Christ



Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would **have to suffer all these things** before entering his glory?

have to suffer all these things – Heavy, Affected, Experience, Mind & emotion
Suffering is part of the gig, it's part of the experience of being, belonging to God
Paul experienced and saw this too.



I will show him how much **he must suffer** for my name.

Paul was blinded after seeing the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus. He's been blind for three days when God called Ananias to put his hands on Paul to heal him. Now Ananias didn't have any special talents, abilities, or medical degrees. But he did have the call and power of God's spirit. It was in the middle of this very difficult and confusing time that Ananias tries to give God an update on what's going on. Just in case God's internet connection was slow or cut off all together. Maybe God was behind in his reading and hadn't heard what was going on. Perhaps Paul's plot had gone unnoticed by God. After all, God is God. He's got lots on his plate. But God's answer opens the door into a place we don't want to look into. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name. Acts 9:16 Paul's sight was about to be restored. And that's a good thing. But Paul's also going to see how much he's going to suffer.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

• Psalm 23:4,5



Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. **Yes**, God anoints us with the oil of his Holy Spirit. Yes, our cup overflows. We celebrate God's goodness in giving us his grace. But what's the verse just before this? What sometimes happens just before we're anointed? Just before our cup overflows?

Just before David rejoices in his head being anointed. Just before he gratefully sings about his cup overflowing. His situation was very tough. He was in a dark place, with evil all around. And God was using his rod and staff, the tools of his correction and discipline.

It was in the middle of tough times that God showed up for David. And it's in the middle of tough times that God shows up for us. We don't get grace in advance of when we need it. It always, always, always comes just when we need it.

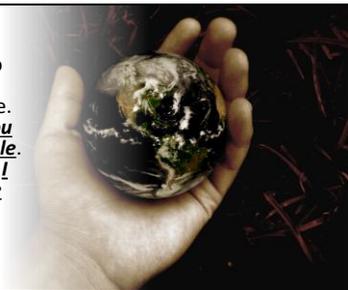
I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world **you will have trouble**. But take heart! **I have overcome** the world.

you will have trouble – pressure, rubbing together, hemmed in, compression, tribulation, persecution, distress, affliction, suffering

I have overcome – victory already won, purchased, to prevail, subdue the enemy
Darren Harrison, from Lakeland, FL

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world **you will have trouble**. But take heart! **I have overcome** the world.

• John 16:33





Nowhere is He (Jesus) the victim of circumstances or the helpless sufferer. Everywhere and always, it is He who possesses the mastery both of circumstances and of Himself.

On the Emotional Life of Our Lord – B.B. Warfield

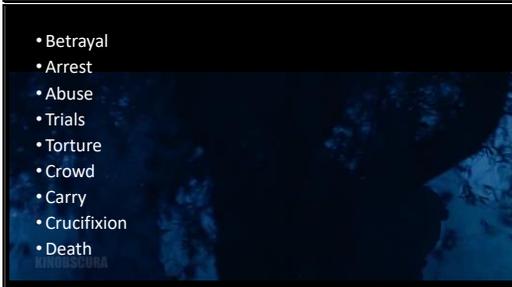
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He is Lord

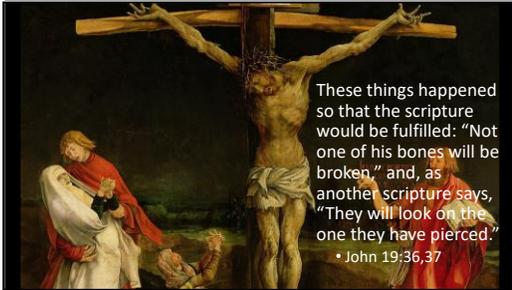
He is Lord, He is Lord!
He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!
Ev'ry knee shall bow, ev'ry tongue confess
That Jesus Christ is Lord.

We love to sing and shout He is Lord
He is Lord, He is Lord!
He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!
Ev'ry knee shall bow, ev'ry tongue confess
That Jesus Christ is Lord.
And it's true, but equally true about...



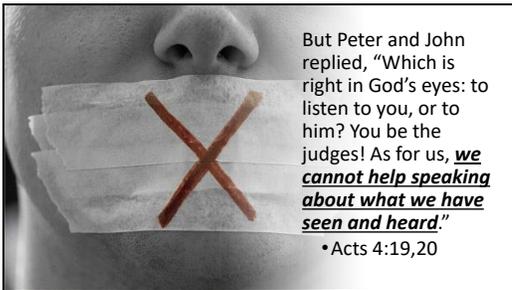
- Betrayal
- Arrest
- Abuse
- Trials
- Torture
- Crowd
- Carry
- Crucifixion
- Death

Betrayal, Arrest, Abuse, Trials, Torture, Crowd, Carry, Crucifixion, Death



These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."
• John 19:36,37

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John 19:36,37
John 19:36 Exodus 12:46; Num. 9:12; Psalm 34:20
John 19:37 Zech. 12:10



But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard"
• Acts 4:19,20

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we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard. – we have no power to stop talking, we can only talk, that is our only option.

Two Small Group Trends That Are Changing Church Leadership

By [Chet Gladue](#) | May 11, 2022



**CHURCH
LEADERS**

