



## **A Place for Weakness: Preparing Yourself for Suffering**

*Michael S. Horton*

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In a world of hype, we may buy into the idea that, through Jesus, we'll be healthier and wealthier as well as wiser. So what happens when we become ill, or depressed, or bankrupt? Did we do something wrong? Has God abandoned us? As a child, Michael Horton would run up the down escalator, trying to beat it to the top. As Christians, he notes, we sometimes seek God the same way, believing we can climb to him under our own steam. We can't, which is why we are blessed that Jesus descends to us, especially during times of trial. In *A Place for Weakness*, formerly titled *Too Good to Be True*, Horton exposes the pop culture that sells Jesus like a product for health and happiness and reminds us that our lives often lead us on difficult routes we must follow by faith. This book offers a series of powerful readings that demonstrate how, through every type of earthly difficulty, our Father keeps his promises from Scripture and works all things together for our good.

## **A Place for Weakness: Preparing Yourself for Suffering Details**

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## **From Reader Review A Place for Weakness: Preparing Yourself for Suffering for online ebook**

### **Kimberly Hewlett Owen says**

For a small little book you wouldn't think that the message inside would be so powerful, but as the saying goes, "Don't under estimate small packages".

It is truly one of the most doctrinally correct books concerning the gospel of Jesus Christ that I have ever read. And easy to read too. I read it last year, but recently began reading it again.

I liked how he contrasted the theologies of glory, a rags-to- riches kind of glory, that is, one starts from nothing and makes something of himself, to the theology of the cross, which is "a different account of reality; it moves from riches to rags. The one who already had everything voluntarily, freely, without any obligation or external constraint, gave it up in order to live for others. There is a power here that makes the fallen "will power" petty and trivial by comparison."

His book will lead you through many of life's trials and tragedies, and as he does you will find your faith being rekindled in the hope of everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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### **Cynthia Vogel says**

This book differs quite radically from all the other books "out there" on the topic of suffering. Michael Horton approaches the topic initially by describing some of the suffering he and his family have been through...and later in the book reveals more. But rather than dealing with the "why" of suffering as most books do and then ending up somewhere in the area of God's sovereignty and goodness; Horton discusses the theology of suffering...how it relates to the cross...and how the cross relates to us in the midst of our pain. It was a good book and absorbing despite treading through some deep ideological waters.

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### **Jim Gilmour says**

This book on suffering is absolutely solid theologically, just what you'd expect from Dr Horton. It is a great counter balance to the way that both culture and very often theologically flawed "Christian" culture often deals with this subject. The harsh reality of suffering and death are not dodged but met with the great assurances of the gospel and the hope of the resurrection.

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### **Jeff Isenor says**

Excellent insight on Christian suffering. He's able to clearly point out all of the problems with pop psychology. There is a small section where he goes overboard on philosophy, but it doesn't affect the rest of the book.

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### **Bruce Williams says**

Just reading the final chapter is worth the price of the book.

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### **Steve says**

Great discussion of a biblical view of weakness and suffering over against the prevalent Christian heresy that says the good Christian will have a triumphant life. Full of good exegesis and moving real life story.

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### **Elizabeth says**

Incredibly complete ressource!

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### **Matthew says**

Michael Horton brings a thoughtful and personal perspective to the Christian who endures - or who will endure - suffering. Pain and loss, in and of themselves, are simply crushing. But Horton puts the problem of pain into the context of the Gospel where, even if it rarely makes sense, it is redeemed. He reminds the reader that "Christianity is not true because it works. In many cases, it does not work. That is to say, it does not solve all the problems we think it should solve. It isn't a technique for our personal therapy, but the truth that God has overcome sin and death in the cross and resurrection of Christ."

"A Place for Weakness" is full of helpful insights, and I recommend it to anyone who's looking to expand their understanding of and preparation for suffering.

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### **Jeanie says**

This book flowed nicely starting when tragedy strikes and ends when God goes to a funeral which in translation means that the last enemy will be destroyed by death. "The Lord is a man of war, the Lord is his name" Exodus 15:3...our preparing for suffering is really a preparation for war of the spiritual kind. This book very nicely done makes you aware of the reality of suffering. What it is and what it is not. Faith always points to what Jesus has done not our own strength or own resources. God provides the resources, and the abilities, but in our flesh we can lose sight of who God is and lose reality at the same time.

You might ask who God is and how do I know who God is...by sound doctrine. Many today assume it is a distraction from the real life of Christian discipleship but it is preparation for it. I just recently did a study on Isaiah (Bible Study Fellowship) and this really resonated with me. Michael Horton does not pull any punches, sugar coats, or give you any promises. He presents Jesus. The Cross. The Character of God.

"They said to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God." Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here...It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and you will be to do your father's desires." John 8:41-44

Page 166-Notice again the reference to God's word. This is the battleground of spiritual warfare. Preferring Satan's enticements to glory instead of God's word.

I very much enjoyed this book. It is grounded with truth that we need to know in preparation for tribulations. We can only act, if we know.

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### **Kathleen says**

Written with great tenderness & much empathy, Dr. Horton's words are soothing & they are honest!

There was no masking the dark side of evil & suffering we endure here in this life. No making light of the painful trials we encounter, sometimes one upon another & yet another that threaten to drain us of our very last drop of faith or so it would seem.

Through scripture & his own personal afflictions Dr. Horton skillfully applies the balm of Christ to all our woundedness as well as the mental/spiritual/emotional struggles resulting from the mysteries within suffering itself.

Yes there will always be many questions ...but the answer remains the same, Christ is sufficient! He's accomplishing things beyond our capacity to understand, He's greater than our suffering & understands all our limitations. Thank God for this most precious truth! He never leaves us or forsakes us!

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### **Paul Kurtz says**

This was an excellent book about human suffering. While personal suffering may not be necessary to developing an accurate doctrine of suffering in the Christian life, it was very helpful that the author was able to express empathy and compassion for those who are experiencing suffering because his own life has not been without its challenges. I found that I was very much able to relate to the author as he described the sufferings in his own life and how he and his wife responded to them.

But the author didn't limit himself to personal anecdotes; there was also a good biblical study of suffering. His treatment of the book of Job was wonderful and left me much more impressed with Job's faith than I was before reading the book. It was also interesting how he balanced God's immanence and transcendence in the things that happen in our lives.

This book was an excellent read and I recommend it to anyone who is interested in how to deal with suffering from a Christian perspective.

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## **Stefan says**

Horton brings the comfort of knowing the Christian's place with God is settled once and for all by the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ in history and relays how we can rest in this truth when life and experience seems to deny any chance of hope. This book is deeply pastoral and unrelenting in its full picture of reality. The "victorious Christian life" is refuted; the theology of glory that all of us possess is eclipsed by the theology of the cross; and the Pharisee is brought to the feet of a God who will overcome in spite of our efforts to box him in.

I highly suggest spending time with this and letting its words sink deep.

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## **Steve Lee Sr says**

2Good2BTrue?

I'm thinking that this book should be required reading for:

1. Pastors
2. Lay people
3. Anyone who is considering, or has responded to, the call to follow Christ

When I'm out and about, or even just flipping through the channels on TV, I am often confronted by statements that Christianity will "fix" your life. I admit that Jesus has fixed some parts of my life and that my life is definitely better with him than without him. However, we should never tell others, nor should we expect, that accepting the call to follow Jesus will exempt us from pain or trials; grief or temptation. Neither does it carry a promise to make us healthy, wealthy, and wise. "It isn't a technique for our personal therapy."

What Jesus does promise is that we will have trouble and that we will be participants with him in his suffering. So, unless you are some kind of sick person, this doesn't sound too exciting. Why then, would anyone choose to become a Christian?

Horton correctly instructs us that, "The good news that we proclaim is true, not because it works for people in that pragmatic, utilitarian way, but because nearly two thousand years ago, outside of the center city of Jerusalem, the Son of God was crucified for our sins and was raised for our justification. This historical event may not fix our marriages, our relationships, or our messed-up lives the way we would like, but it saves us from the wrath of God to come and gives us new life, hope, and wisdom for our existence here and now, guaranteeing the end of pain at last."

If you've been disappointed with your life (or with God) because things aren't going the way you were promised, this book should be a source of great joy. Horton makes a clear distinction between what God has promised and what (well-meaning, but wrong) people have assumed to promise on his behalf. Hope in God's promises is not misplaced and will never disappoint.

Horton has done a good thing for us all in writing this book.

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**Cbarrett says**

Horton provides a systematic approach to the issue of suffering. He writes sympathetically as one who has endured various kinds of trials. Highlights the success of the gospel and the triumph of Christ and points to the day when all things will be made right. Very helpful book.

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**Tara says**

Horton is very thought provoking in his analysis of American culture. He encourages the reader to take solace in Christ's work on the cross & the hope we already have in him. He does not encourage Christians to remove themselves from the world. Rather, he encourages them to put their hope in what is yet to come.

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