

## **Christ, Suffering Now**

**780531**

I know that most of you who have seen me on crutches in the past few weeks realize that in some way I hurt my leg. The pain of that injury, very severe at first, has declined to nearly nothing now, and I can laugh and joke about it. Some time in the future I will be walking quite normally on it and I will be able to remember that I had great pain because of it at one time, but it will be only a fading memory of the real thing.

I want to talk tonight for a minute about the suffering of Christ. I think that we sometimes have this attitude that Christ certainly suffered very much at one time, but he is better now, and it doesn't bother him anymore. This type of thinking causes us to think only lightly of him during the Lord's Supper, and throughout the week. I want to bring a thought before you tonight that has made me think more deeply about his suffering, and that is that he is suffering for us still.

First of all, Christ suffers when certain people's lives show him that he suffered for nothing. People who don't care what Christ did hurt him very deeply, for he would have it that all men be saved. And secondly, when God created the universe, he created time as we know it with it. He, with his great knowledge, can see all of space and time, present, past and future, just as we might read a map. Christ, being God and man, is a part of that picture, and his crucifixion occupies the central place on this map. So when I think of Christ, I think of him existing in all times, and suffering on the cross even as I stand here.

This may not help you at all in deepening your feelings about the crucifixion, but I hope that it does. You know, we all need something to feel deeply about. Our house will decay, our car will tear up, our money will vanish; but our savior will never wear out. We will never have to polish, paint, or replace him. He is ours for all of our existence, if we follow him.