

subjective guilt. As the writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews says in Hebrews 9:14:

... how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works (i.e., actions that are sinful and tend toward death) to serve the living God?

Thank God that there is a place of confession of sin, of forgiveness, of cleansing, and of renewed grace with Him! Thank God, all of the suffering connected with guilt, both in this life and in the life to come, has been provided for in the atoning work of Jesus Christ.

2. How God's special love prevents or alleviates some suffering for some human beings
 - a. One important way in which God's special love prevents or alleviates some suffering for some human beings is by providing deliverance from many forms of suffering through their regeneration and consequent responses of obedience to the will of God.

When God gives a human being a new spiritual birth and creates him anew in God's image, He not only communicates new spiritual life to that person; He also transforms his nature. He changes that person inwardly so that he has a new outlook, a new direction, a new purpose, and a new moral disposition. Before, that man was inclined toward self and unrighteousness; now, he is inclined toward God and righteousness. Before, he practiced sin; now he practices goodness. Before, he was filled with unrest and dissatisfaction; now he is characterized by peace and deep joy and satisfaction and victory over sin. And he now seeks to obey God, do the will of God, glorify God, and walk in accordance with the Law of God.

As a result, He is delivered from many forms of sin and its consequences. Since living in accordance with God's Law both glorifies God and achieves man's own highest well-being, the regenerate man, by means of the obedience that flows from the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit in his life, experiences life at its highest and most meaningful, even when he goes through difficulty and sorrow. And he avoids many forms of suffering which flow from individual acts of sin.

Thus regeneration and its consequent obedience is an important way in which God's special love prevents and alleviates suffering among some human beings.

- b. Another important way in which God's special love prevents or alleviates some suffering for some human beings is by relieving