

“Yet cheerful He to suffering goes.”

Cheerful.

In reading Peter’s witness as recorded in Acts, there is nothing “cheerful” to be seen. Tragic is more like it. The God who had delivered Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all of Israel time and time again sees his son and servant, Jesus, delivered over to death. The Holy and Righteous One is denied, “made away” as Crossman writes. The Author and Prince of Life is forsaken and killed, exchanged for a known murderer.

Yet cheerful He to suffering goes—that He His foes from thence might free. He does this for the very ones who forsook him, who denied him, who killed him. He endures suffering so that all who in sin have denied, rejected, and forsaken Him might be set free from sin and death. He does this for you. He does this even for me. Jesus cheerfully endures suffering because he spares us from that suffering.

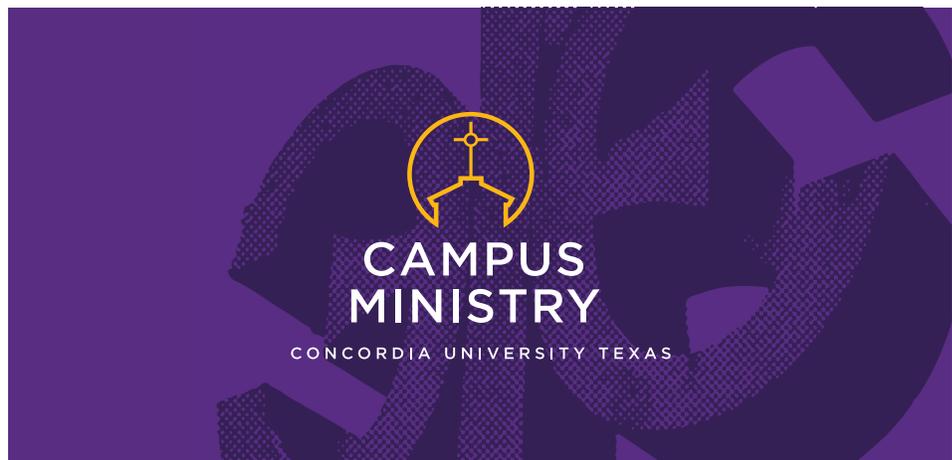
The evil of humanity is completely thwarted in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus cheerfully endures that which is clearly tragic. This is the love that is unknown, the love that makes the loveless lovely. Our Lord loves us cheerfully. Our Lord demonstrates that cheerful love in willing submission and suffering.

NOTES: _____

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

QUESTIONS:

- 1. What does it mean that Jesus “cheerfully” went to the cross for you?
2. Are there places where Jesus is calling you to share His love with those who are “loveless” around you?



PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, Your son cheerfully endured the suffering and shame of the cross for our sake. Strengthen us with faith and hope in Christ’s death and resurrection, that at His return in final judgment, we might be eternally set free. We ask this in the name of the Author of Life, whose love makes us lovely. Amen

