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37. Hard

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32. Pole

(sym.)

26. Baby's

22. Not

Contrary to common belief, the Bible does not teach that all men are the children of God. Our Lord said to the religious leaders of His day: "Ye are of your fa-ther the devil" (John 8:44), but to the believers in Christ at Galatia, St. Paul wrote: "Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:26).

As the children of Adam, it is not strange that we should have to bear suffering, for sorrow, sickness, and death entered the world with sin (Rom. 5:12). But some people wonder why God's children, whose greatest desire is to please Him, should have to suffer along with others.

There are several reasons for this. In the case of Job, God allowed His servant to suffer to prove to Satan that Job did not live a godly life for personal gain-and Job was richly rewarded later for all he had borne.

Further, God's people could not be much spiritual help to others if they were exempt from the sufferings others have to bear. In such a case the unsave would say: "Yes, you can talk! You

WHY GOD PERMITS HIS CHILDREN TO SUFFER don't know what it is to suffer disappointments, sick-

ness and pain, as we do." Then, too, it must be remembered that even the most Godly saint is not perfect and must at times be disciplined, "for whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth" (Heb. 12:6). This is done for our good, to keep us from sin and its results.

Finally, suffering and adversity tend to make God's children pray more and lean harder on Him, and herein lies their spiritual strength and blessing. St. Paul said: "I take pleasure in infirmities...for when I am weak, then am I strong" (II Cor. 12:10).

But there is a great two-fold advantage which the suffering Christian has over others. First, his sufferings are only temporary; and second, they earn eternal glory for him.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (II Cor.

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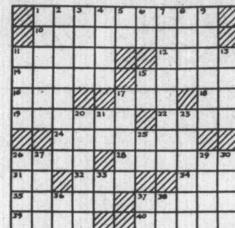
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THAT EVERTHING

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