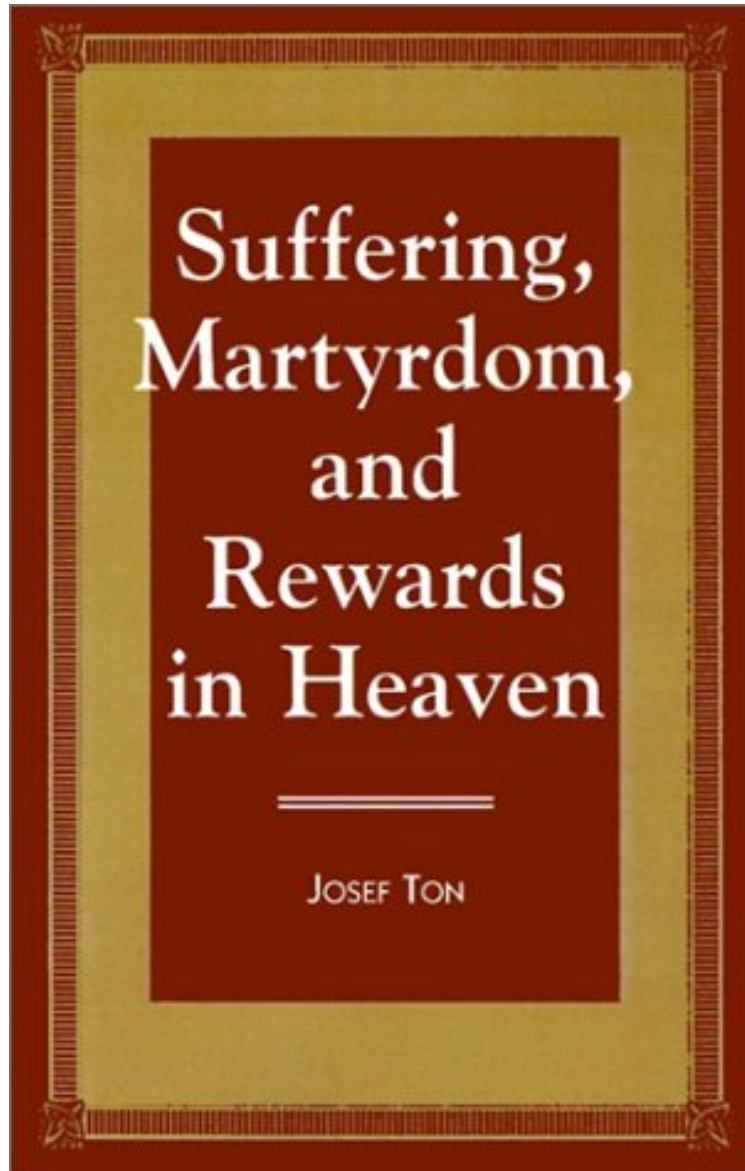


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Suffering, Martyrdom, and Rewards in Heaven

Iosef Ton

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14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. A Significant Contribution to Contemporary TheologyBy Craig

Stephans I don't think I can overstate the impact this book had on my own view of Christianity and ministry. Josef Ton has presented a study of Scripture, theology and Christian ethics that has been lacking in my experience of studies. It is truly profound and shed so much light on my own experience of being in ministry. In his book, Ton summarizes this thesis: "A Christian's zeal for good works and his aim to prove himself worthy of God and of his calling have a great impact upon the nature of his eternal state. The practices of self-denial, of serving God and other people, of striving for perfection and holiness, of persevering and enduring hardship for the cause of Christ all matter with respect to what a Christian's position in heaven will be." He continues, "One of the purposes of this dissertation is to logically and organically integrate into our Protestant thinking a theology of good works on earth and of rewards in heaven without losing our distinctive belief in the grace of God that is at work in all things, at every stage in our lives, from start to finish." Ton thoroughly examines Scripture and early Church writings regarding the life of a disciple that includes suffering and often martyrdom and leads to rewards in heaven. Throughout the book, he does well to hold the seemingly paradoxical views of God's sovereignty and man's responsibility to act and respond. Ton presents them both without diminishing God's sovereign assertiveness and grace or man's call to submit and act in God's grace with faith and commitment. Ton sees two "planes of action" at work, that of the saving and enabling grace of God and that of man's actions--both equally true and important. He emphatically exalts the grace of God as always at work and always saving and enabling so that man cannot boast in his salvation or good works except in the grace of the cross. He also presents a call of God to man to follow the master in suffering and bearing witness for the kingdom of God that the world might know the salvation of Christ. Ton asserts that by God's grace we can go through suffering and even death by his strength, and he asserts that for those who are faithful, even unto death, there are rewards in heaven correlational to a Christian's faithfulness and good works on earth. The rewards in heaven include ruling and reigning with Christ for eternity. This book was especially helpful for me to see that being a disciple and minister of Christ does not necessarily entail suffering and persecution for his sake. Ton believes that Christ died for sins once and for all for the salvation of the world, and Christians are called to suffer for Christ that the world might learn of that salvation as Christians bear witness to it by laying down their lives for Jesus. This book is instructive and encouraging. I know many would balk at any talk of rewards in heaven or even doing good works for Christ; however, what Ton asserts he proves its congruence with Scripture and the writing of the Church Fathers. I heartily recommend this book for all Christians.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Awesome book
By 24th chance
This 500+ page paperback book focuses on what the Bible says about martyrdom and rewards in heaven. Nothing of how to endure torture or his experiences as the pastor of the largest baptist church in Europe. Yes, a few places I disagree with him on, pages 66,69,87,203,215 and others. He does not use the KJV so I had to keep looking up his references. Complete notes and Bibliography and Scripture references in the rear of the book. Type size is good but be prepared to read slowly as this is not a comic book type of read.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. VICTORY IN JESUS!
By Allan Baker
I accidentally stumbled upon this work and can't believe it is not an essential of Christian scholarship. So many unasked questions were answered, giving me a broader picture of so much of what was said by Jesus and His disciples. Of course, if you imbibe a Christianity with no expectations and comfort is king, then this book is your nemesis. Very little of what I see in American churches is illustrated, here, but its reliance on Scripture for every point made convinces me that my spiritual landscape is not the pattern set by God. This encourages me on to a course, though it be as hard as this life can offer, even to death, that will come with rewards promised from heaven and the ultimate in victory for Christ.

The first systematic study of suffering, martyrdom, and rewards in heaven, this book offers a comprehensive survey of these ideas through biblical and historical investigation from the time of the writing of the book of Job to the present. Suffering and martyrdom for the faith are always accompanied in the biblical literature with the promise of great rewards in heaven. However, the Christian theology has never presented a comprehensive treatment of this subject. For the Protestant ideology especially, it was always difficult if not impossible to integrate logically the concept of rewards into a system of grace and faith alone. This book, for the first time, presents a biblical and reasonable interpretation of the rewards in heaven and advocates close attention to God's original purpose for the creation of man as explanation for the complex issue of suffering and martyrdom.

About the Author Josef Ton is Adjunct Professor at Emmanuel Bible Institute in Oradea, Romania.