

## SUFFERING 101



**1 Peter 4:12-19, ESV** – <sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. <sup>15</sup> But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. <sup>16</sup> Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. <sup>17</sup> For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup> And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" <sup>19</sup> Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

### Notes:

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# SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of August 16, 2020

1 Peter 4:12-19

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

## ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This weekend, we were reminded to not be surprised when we suffer and instead to be rejoicing. What does it mean to rejoice in suffering?
- 2 Which of the following truths gives you the most personal peace? (1) Our suffering identifies us with Jesus, (2) Our suffering pays off in the future, (3) Our suffering is a blessing right now, (4) Our suffering enables us to bring glory to God. Explain.
- 3 In verse 19, Peter gives us the "bottom line" to suffering. How can we entrust our souls to our faithful Creator on a daily basis?

## DIGGING DEEPER

**A** **John 15:18-21, ESV** – <sup>18</sup> "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup> If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. <sup>21</sup> But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.

4 Looking at the passage, why should believers not be surprised by suffering?

5 How can we prepare ourselves to encounter hate and rejection?

6 How can we cultivate a soft heart toward those who reject our faith in Christ? What do we need to keep in mind when others despise us?

**B** *Acts 5:40-42, ESV* – <sup>40</sup> and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. <sup>41</sup> Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. <sup>42</sup> And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

7 In the passage above, we see how the Apostles reacted to suffering for their faith. If you had to go through similar suffering for your faith, how would you cope?

8 If the government told you that you could not pray, show your Bible, or talk about God in public, what would you do?

9 How can you experience God more fully, so that you are set free to rejoice no matter what suffering you experience?

## TAKING IT HOME

As followers of Christ, we will experience suffering. We should not be surprised by this. Instead, we should rejoice in the fact that we are counted worthy to suffer for Jesus. What about you? How do you react in the midst of suffering for your faith? Share with your group or accountability partner what God is laying on your heart and pray that you will behave in a way that is pleasing to Christ.

## PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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## FOR FURTHER STUDY

Romans 8:17-18

Philippians 3:10-11

Colossians 1:24