



Date: April 19, 2020

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:12-19

Suffering: What's the Point? and What to do?

## **1. Purpose** – What's the Point?

- a. Refines & Conforms ... (1 Peter 4:17-18, 12) (1 Peter 2:21)
- b. Assures...(1 Peter 4:13-14)
- c. Honors.... (2 Thessalonians 1:5)

## **2. Approach**--

- a. Hand it over – **Entrust** souls to a ***faithful Creator*** (1 Peter 4:19)
- b. Hang on – (1 Peter 1:13)

### The Problem of Evil...

One thing this sermon did not address was the problem of evil.

If there's two types of suffering

1. (Type 1) Suffering I bring on myself and
  2. (Type 2) Suffering God allows and sometimes send my way,
- What about the horrendously evil (rape, murder, etc)? Did God send those? If so, wouldn't that make God the author of evil?
    - The Short answer is "No." God is never to be blamed for evil. He is intrinsically and inherently good in every way. We have not an easy or neat explanation for the existence of evil, but we do know this, God is Good, God is in Control, and Jesus wins. Sometimes the Bible doesn't answer all of our questions, but instead it asks us to rest in the Goodness and Sovereignty of God. To trust Him, and allow the mystery to remain. Someday we will know as we are known, but that day is not now.
    - So what do we do now? Please discuss the following...



1. How was Jesus' suffering Glorious?
  - a. 1 Peter 1:11 (ESV) <sup>11</sup> ....the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.
  - b. Luke 24:26 (ESV) <sup>26</sup> **Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"**
  - c. John 12:32 (ESV) <sup>32</sup> **And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."**
  
2. How does focusing on Christ's suffering help us through our own?<sup>i</sup>
  
3. What was "The Conformity Pattern"? Do you remember? (Hint: Ephesians 4:32; 1 Peter 2:21)<sup>ii</sup>
  
4. What is the Holy Spirit called in 1 Peter 4:16?
  
5. How is the Holy Spirit connected to **our Glory**? (Romans 8:26-28; Ephesians 1:13-14)<sup>iii</sup>
  
6. Are there any Bible verses that are particularly special or helpful to you with regard to dealing with suffering? How do they help you?
  
  
7. What are some effective things that you've done to be able to get yourself into the right state of mind?<sup>iv</sup>

Please take some time to pray together. See if there's ways you can incorporate this scripture and things you've gleaned from this passage into your prayers.

Thanks and have a blessed week.

IN Christ,

Pastor Jeremy



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i Christ on the Cross (the Divine sufferer)

1. If I focus on my suffering, I end in self-pity, anger, frustration, and misery.
2. If I focus on Global suffering, I end in hopelessness, sadness, and despair. But
3. if I focus on Christ's suffering, then I see in suffering the ultimate solution to suffering. A sufferer, who didn't have to suffer, but by His own choice took on the suffering of others, that he might eliminate the problem of sin in one fatal swoop, and provide the solution to evil in His coming return. This view of suffering ends not in desperation, hopelessness, or despair, but in the triumph of God's mercy and grace. (JKL)

ii **“The Conformity Pattern” = Christ... as prototypical -**

*καθὼς καί* = **“Even as Christ”**

Lincoln, A. T. (2002). *Vol. 42: Word Biblical Commentary : Ephesians*. Word Biblical Commentary (309). Dallas: Word, Incorporated.

Ephesians 4:32 (ESV)

<sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

1 Peter 2:21 (ESV)

<sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

Romans 8:26–28 (ESV)

<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup> And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Ephesians 1:13–14 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

iv

1 Peter 1:13 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Romans 12:2 (ESV)

<sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2 Corinthians 10:5 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

James 5:13 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.