

What's Up With Suffering?

A Pastor's Encouragement to the Early Church

Hebrews 12:1-2

I. Keep it up!

- A. The pastor exhorts the church to respond to hardship by persevering in Christ's mission (v. 1).
- B. Believers are responsible for persevering in their commitment to God (2 Chron. 15:7).

II. Add it up!

- A. The pastor exhorts the church to persevere through hardship because of the reliable promise of redemption (v. 1a).
- B. God's promises are trustworthy (Deut. 7:9, Jn. 3:16).

III. Give it up!

- A. The pastor exhorts the church to respond to hardship by removing barriers to Christ's mission (v. 1b).
- B. Hurts, habits, and hang-ups distract us from God's vision for our lives (Jn. 10:10; 1 Cor. 5:7-9).

IV. Look it up!

- A. The pastor exhorts the church to respond to hardship by looking to Jesus (v. 2).
 - 1. Look at Christ's commitment to us (v. 2a).
 - 2. Look at Christ's example for us (v. 2b).
- B. The road to glory in God's Kingdom is paved by enduring sacrifice and commitment to Christ's mission (Heb. 9:28).