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March 12, 2023

# The Good News About Suffering for Jesus

## 1 Peter 4:12-19

Expectations. What comes into your mind when you hear the word expectations? We all have them. Expectations are things we think should happen the way we want them to happen when we want them to happen. This past week I had expectations that my flights to California for the shepherd's conference would be on time and things would go well.

Flying these days is not for the faint of heart. When I got to the airport to fly out to California on Tuesday morning I got a text that my first flight to Phoenix was delayed for 3 hours which meant I got rerouted through Denver and then Las Vegas and then our flight home late Friday night was missing a key ingredient - the pilot. So they rerouted us through Atlanta. The flying was eventful, but the conference went well.

On the way home our direct flight from LAX to Indianapolis was missing a key ingredient - The pilot. We waited for a few hours and flew to Atlanta and thankfully they held the plane for us to Indianapolis and we landed in Indianapolis on Saturday morning.

In the Bible we meet people who had wrong expectations about the purpose of Christ's coming and an important part of the Christian life. In Luke 24 we meet two men who were sincere, but sincerely wrong about why Christ came the first time. Luke 24 takes place on the first day of the week. This happened on the Sunday after Jesus died on Friday. Luke ends his gospel showing us something on the Sunday that Jesus rose again. Please follow along as I read Luke 24.

Here is the question I want us to consider as we read this chapter - What part of the ministry of Christ did these two men in the middle of Luke 24 misunderstand? What did they get wrong about the Messiah that the risen Christ helps them understand?

Luke 24:13-35

- 13 That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,
- 14 and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened.
- 15 While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them.
- 16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.
- 17 And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad.
- 18 Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"
- 19 And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,
- 20 and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him.
- 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.
- 22 Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning,
- 23 and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive.
- 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."
- 25 And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!
- 26 **Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"**
- 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.
- 28 So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther,
- 29 but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them.
- 30 When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them.
- 31 And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.
- 32 They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"
- 33 And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together,
- 34 saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"

- 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

In the middle of Luke 24 we see these two men who were there when Jesus suffered and died. But they didn't understand the meaning of it. They were sincere but they were sincerely wrong. The Messiah they hoped for didn't match up with what had just happened to Jesus. They were hoping for a Messiah who would redeem Israel - That's in verse 21. They were looking for a Messiah who would come and conquer the Romans and free His people from Gentile rulers and give them peace. They loved the parts of the Old Testament about the conquering messiah and missed the parts about the Messiah being conquered for our sins.

Jesus didn't fit these guys expectations of what the Messiah would do. How does Jesus help the people in Luke 24 help them understand why He came? Does He give them new revelation? No. They don't need new revelation. They need to understand the revelation they already had the right way.

Luke 24:25-27

- 25 And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!
- 26 **Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"**
- 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Jesus didn't help these guys by giving them new revelation. He helped them by challenging their unbelief regarding the revelation they already had. He points them to what Moses and the prophets (Summary for the whole Old Testament) pointed to about the Messiah's suffering and then His glory. How the Messiah came the first time to suffer and then to enter into His glory.

I like how Dale Ralph Davis describes these verses, "For our own benefit I think we should pay attention to Jesus' method here. At this point it was more crucial for these two disciples to *hear* Christ than to *see* Him. Jesus could have disclosed Himself (with an ungrammatical, 'It's me, fellows!'). But Jesus didn't give them a neat experience—**He rubbed their noses in the scriptures**. You must not merely get relief, you must *understand* Jesus, you must grasp what sort of Messiah He is, and you will not understand Jesus unless you go to the scriptures. Otherwise, you'll always be making Him something He's not. *Here Jesus thought learning Christ was more urgent than*

*eliminating sorrow.* We usually prefer an instant solution, for Jesus to lift the sadness, clear up the perplexity, while more than that He wants us to know Him. So how will Jesus often relieve you? Not by some mystical experience but by dragging you into the scriptures."

You will also notice in these verses the connection between their right understanding of Christ and being excited to tell other people about Christ. No one has to force you to talk about what you're most passionate about. Our words flow from our hearts. Were the people in Luke 24 the only people to misunderstand something important from the Bible? No. In the verses we are going to learn this morning from 1 Peter 4:12-19 we see Peter addressing wrong expectations that believers had toward an important part of the Christian life - the inevitable suffering that will come our way for loving and living for Christ in the midst of a world that loves and lives for sin.

Please turn over to 1 Peter 4:12. What these people were missing was the fact that what happened to Jesus will happen to some degree to all who follow Jesus. Obviously, our suffering is not redemptive. Sinners can't suffer for anyone else's sin. The suffering Peter is describing is suffering that happens to every Christian who follows Christ by doing the will of God.

Notice what Peter writes in 1 Peter 4:12-19:

1 Peter 4:12-19

- 12 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.
- 13 But ***rejoice*** insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.
- 14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.
- 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler.
- 16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.
- 17 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?

- 18 And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"
- 19 Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

This morning we end a section in 1 Peter that started all the way back in the middle of chapter 2. 1 Peter 4:12-19 is Peter's final word on suffering and persecution. This is an area they needed help with, and I think we do too. I still remember a class that I took after college when I went back and got a master's degree in biblical counseling. It was taught by a man named John Street. He was talking about trials and suffering and I was sitting there as a 23 year old thinking to myself, "I can't really identify with what he is talking about."

I was single at the time. I worked as the assistant golf and soccer coach at The Master's University. My rent was \$187 per month. I had very little suffering in my life. My life was good. So after class I went to the front and I thanked Dr. Street for his lesson and then I told him, "Dr. Street, I have not experienced much of what you're talking about." Then he put his hand on my shoulder and looked me in the eyes and he said, "Just wait, Blake. Live long enough for Christ and some form of suffering is inevitable." Then I said, "Thanks a lot brother."

That was over 20 years ago. I was a young pup in the Christian life. I was unaware of something the whole Bible teaches over and over again. People who do the will of God from a heart of sincerity will suffer. It really is just a matter of time. We will not all suffer the same way, but we will all suffer in some way. This is an area we all need help with and God loves us so much that He provides the truths we need here in 1 Peter. After this morning we won't be able to play the excuse card about suffering as if we didn't know it would happen and we didn't know what to do when it comes.

Here is what we have seen in 1 Peter about this word beloved that we see in the beginning of verse 12. Whenever Peter uses the word beloved he is about to say something we need to hear, but we may not want to hear. These people are beloved to Peter because they're uniquely loved by God. Peter loves them because God loves them. **In these verses we find our loving heavenly Father providing people who take serious the name of Christ and all that stands for with biblical expectations.**

*Having the right expectations is critical to the Christian life*

This is interesting. It seems that in 1 Peter 3, Peter writes about the possibility of persecution. But here in these verses he describes the inevitability of persecution. What might happen in chapter 3 is happening in chapter 4. Some people even wonder if Peter got some news about these churches as he was writing this letter that heightened the urgency. This is a sobering reality. Suffering, more intense suffering against Christians could come at any moment.

This morning I want to give you 3 reasons Christians rejoice when, not if, suffering comes our way:

1. Christians rejoice in Christ when suffering comes our way because it's ***commanded***  
- 1 Peter 4:12-13

1 Peter 4:12-13

- 12 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.
- 13 But ***rejoice*** insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

The suffering that Peter is describing here is suffering that comes from loyalty to Christ. The sufferings of Christ refer to suffering that comes because of our allegiance to Christ. Peter provides a new perspective on suffering in these verses - Suffering for the right reasons is a cause for celebration.

This is how the early church responded to persecution for the name of Christ. They didn't turn inward. When it happened they turned upward. In Acts 5, Peter is told to stop teaching in this name - The name of Jesus Christ. But someone who is filled with the Spirit can't stop pointing people to Christ. After Peter boldly confronts the high priest with the truths of the gospel the reaction wasn't repentance - Acts 5:33 says that the people Peter shared the gospel with were enraged and wanted to kill them. They wanted to do to Peter what they had done to Peter's savior.

Eventually Peter and his gospel amigos are beaten and charged not to speak in Jesus' name and released. How does Luke describe their response to these events? Acts 5:41-42, "Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus." How did these people respond to suffering for making Jesus known? They didn't turn inward.

No self pity. They rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

What happened in Acts 16 after Paul and his friends went to Philippi and began proclaiming Christ in a pagan city? After Paul and Silas are attacked by the crowd who inflict many blows upon them and they are put in the inner prison and their feet are fastened in the stocks Acts 16:25 says, "About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them." How did they handle suffering for Jesus? Worship. They didn't turn inward. They kept their focus in the right place.

This is the repeated emphasis of the New Testament. **Suffering Christians rejoice.** Peter and Paul and those who ministered with them *expected* to suffer for Christ and when it happened they *exulted* in Christ.

How are we doing in the suffering class in the Christian life? When we get pushback for making Christ known, what do we do? Where do we go? Do we get down on our knees and worship Christ? [It's always a good idea to get down on your knees to worship Christ as long as you can get back up, right?](#) Worship is our way of life if we are being kept filled with the Spirit. We need to remember from Philippians 1:29 that both salvation and suffering are gifts of grace. Suffering is not an accident in the life of the Christian.

Peter forbids us from being surprised when suffering comes. Instead, he tells us what to do when it comes. God's way to endure trials is to expect them and exult in Christ when they come.

I don't know if someone is treating you poorly for attempting to help them know Christ, but if you are go back and learn from the early church in the book of Acts. If you are suffering you can't stop rejoicing. Keep rejoicing. Keep praising God. Keep your focus upward and outward and not inward. In Philippians Paul models rejoicing when suffering comes as he writes from prison and he ends the letter with two commands in Philippians 3:1 and 4:1, "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice."

One of the men I got to see at the shepherd's conference works in a prison ministry back in Kansas. The men in this prison are not there because of their commitment to Christ. They are there for crimes. One man in the prison who has come to know the Lord is a younger man named Jerry Thatch. I wish you could meet Jerry. He's one of

the most joyful Christians I have ever met. Jerry doesn't have much in prison. He stays in a room with some other guys and he spends his days working with a ministry called Men of Grace. I never met with Jerry when I didn't leave convicted and encouraged. Jerry was more happy in prison than so many people I knew who knew the Lord outside of prison. Jerry's joy came from knowing, serving and worshipping Jesus Christ no matter what came his way. He showed me that you can suffer and rejoice at the same time. Actually, he was more joyful in prison than many people I knew outside of prison.

Peter reminds us in 1 Peter 4:12-13 not to be surprised by suffering and to keep rejoicing when it comes. 1 Peter 4:13 points us ahead, "But **rejoice** insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed." **Another motivation to do something now in light of the second coming.**

Thomas Schreiner writes, "Peter exhorted readers to rejoice in their present sufferings so that they will be able to rejoice and exult forever when Christ returns. By implication those who do not rejoice in their sufferings do not truly belong to Jesus Christ. If they groan about sufferings now, they will presumably be disappointed on the future day."

What does that mean? If suffering comes and we are only sad something is wrong. If our suffering leads us farther down the road into depression instead of delight something is wrong. Like Paul, we should be sorrowful but always rejoicing. I think this is a choice we make. Obviously with the Spirit's help. I will suffer for Christ and when I do I will keep rejoicing because I know Christ is coming back and it will all be worth it when I see Him face to face.

2. Christians rejoice when suffering comes because it is **confirming** - 1 Peter 4:14

1 Peter 4:14, "If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you."

Here Peter shows us more good news about suffering for Jesus - Believers who suffer are uniquely blessed by God. At this point most of these believers were experiencing mere verbal threats for their loyalty to Christ. They were insulted by the world for rejecting the world's way of thinking and embracing Christ and His way of thinking. Peter's point is that being insulted for the name of Christ is a good sign - You are blessed because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. That explains why they're blessed.



Someone in whom the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon will live for Christ because the ministry of the Spirit is to glorify Christ. Sometimes I think we don't fully grasp how amazing it is to be saved and what God gives us at the moment of salvation. Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ have God living inside of them. In the Old Testament, believers went to the temple to worship God. We don't have the temple anymore. Friends, we are the temple. Say what? Our bodies are the temple of who? 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."

What should we see in our lives if the Spirit has moved in and made His home in our hearts? What changed in people in Acts when the Spirit came? When the Spirit came the Scriptures were taught and Christ was glorified. When the Spirit came the gospel was preached and as the gospel was preached suffering came with it.

Guys, if we have the Spirit we should be telling others about Jesus Christ. Like Paul, we cannot be ashamed of the gospel. Do you remember the question Paul asked the Corinthians about this? Really about his own apostolic ministry and what he faced. 2 Corinthians 2:15-16, "For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things?"

These are the only two responses to the gospel. To some the message brings eternal life and ultimate glorification. It's a pleasing aroma. To others it is a stumbling stone of offense that brings eternal death. It's not a pleasing aroma. That's why Christians are insulted. It's not about us, it's about the stumbling block of the cross.

Spurgeon reminds us, "Although the gospel is a sweet aroma in every place, it produces different effects in different persons—Even as the brilliant sunshine will moisten the wax but harden the clay, so it is with the gospel. But we are not to blame the gospel for this. It is not the fault of God's truth. It is the fault of those who do not receive it. We are responsible for what we proclaim. **We are accountable for our life and actions. But we are not responsible for other people and their decisions. As long as we do what we are supposed to do, we are a precious fragrance of Christ no matter how people respond to our message.**"

**Let me ask some questions - What are some things we can do to avoid being insulted for the name of Christ?**

**What are some things we can do that will lead to being insulted for the name of Christ?**

**Do we pursue the insult?**

**What do we pursue?**

Faithfulness to let the Spirit of God work through us to point people to Jesus Christ.

From 1 Peter 4:15-18 Peter reminds us that when we suffer we also need to be careful.

1 Peter 4:15-18

- 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler.
- 16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.
- 17 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?
- 18 And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

Throughout 1 Peter we see Peter reminding us that there are good reasons to suffer and there are bad reasons to suffer. He doesn't want anyone to take the name of Christ, to call themselves a Christian and to suffer for living like the world. That kind of suffering doesn't count. Some suffering that comes into the lives of Christians is their own fault. That's verse 15.

A good thing to do when suffering enters your life as a Christian is to tap the breaks and slow down and ask yourself a simple question, "Am I suffering for doing something stupid or am I suffering for doing the will of God?" Saints do stupid things and suffered for it. David committed adultery and suffered for it. Peter denied Christ three times the night before the cross and suffered for it. It is possible for Christians to suffer for the wrong reasons. We may not be guilty of murder or being a thief or an evil doer, but what about meddling? What about involving ourselves in other people's business uninvited?

A meddler is someone who doesn't know how to stay in their own spiritual lane. Every morning we drove down to the shepherd's conference on the freeways in heavy traffic. There were cars routinely getting out of their lane and driving into other people's lanes.

That's a meddler. Someone who leaves their own lane and gets in other people's lanes. In Proverbs we learn about the person who involves himself or herself in other people's lives and then gets all anxious because they're involved in something they shouldn't be involved in.

Proverbs 26:17-19, "Whoever meddles in a quarrel not his own is like one who takes a passing dog by the ears." Meddlers invite trouble. That's quite the word picture. Instead of being people who are getting outside of our spiritual lane we need to be more like Teslas. Teslas stay in their own lane. Once the address is typed into the car Tesla's stay in their lane. Our address is heaven with Christ and our steering wheel is Scripture and we need to stay in our own spiritual lane.

John Kitchen, in his Proverbs commentary writes, "'Mind your own business!' seems to be the moral of this story (Prov. 3:30). It is senseless to stick your nose in where you are not invited (Prov. 20:3). Refuse to be needlessly drawn into another man's quarrels. To fail in this regard is likened to grabbing a junkyard dog (dogs were seldom domesticated) by the ears, thus bringing needless trouble upon one's self."

We need to step back when we suffer and ask ourselves a simple question, "Am I suffering because of my sin?" If we are then what do we do? Repent. Ask God for forgiveness. Stop the sin that leads to the suffering. Remember Jesus bore our sins on the cross so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness. Get back in your own spiritual lane and fix your eyes on Jesus.

The believers suffering must not happen for the wrong reasons. In verse 16, Peter points us to the suffering that counts - "Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name." In the first century being called a Christian was a derogatory term. People who took that name were looked down on. It was used by the world as an insult.

Have you ever been insulted for calling yourself a Christian? In Peter's day people who put their trust in Christ as the Messiah who came to suffer on a cross and rise again were considered foolish. How could you be so stupid to believe such a thing? A man dying bloody and naked on a wooden cross is the Savior of the world, yeah right? Get out of my face with that nonsense.

Again, Peter tells us what to do when this kind of thing happens. **Don't be ashamed but glorify God in that name.** In what sense in verse 17 does judgment begin with the

house of God? What happens to a Christian who sins? God disciplines them. God disciplines us for our good that we may share His holiness.

David Helm reminds us, "At times, then, our suffering comes to us because we deserve it. So God disciplines us. The text says that he begins with us. God will prune us like a tree that he desires to bear fruit. C. H. Spurgeon spun a story about the results of pruning. "The apricot tree at 2828 Hill Heights Park was trimmed back so much I wondered if the branches and leaves would ever grow back, let alone the leaves. We ended up that next year having apricots coming out of our ears; Mom made apricot pie, jam, and we had it as fresh fruit, and there was still an abundance left for the birds.

Take heart. If God is putting you through a season of suffering in connection with his concern for his glory, he has a desire for abundance in your future. And if you are still discouraged by this, take note of what Peter says about unbelievers and sinners. If sitting under God's judgment is difficult for us now, what will it be like for them when he stands before them at his return? Trust God. He knows what is best for you. Like Spurgeon, learn to say, "I have learned to kiss the wave that strikes me against the Rock of Ages."

If God disciplines His own children how much more will He judge those who reject Him. In the end, God will make all things right. What does Peter mean in verse 18 that the righteous are scarcely saved? Peter is quoting from Proverbs. It makes it sound like people who are saved barely get into the kingdom. Scarcely saved is not the best translation. Peter is translating Hebrew into Greek. In the original proverb in Hebrew it says, "If the righteous will receive their due on earth, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner."

The idea being that if God's own people receive just judgment from God, how much more will unbelievers receive. The translators of the ESV by translating this scarcely makes it sound like believers are barely saved. You're saved, but it was close. I had a college roommate who used to tell me that D's get degrees. Is that what Peter means? D's still get into heaven. As if some are really saved and some are barely saved. That's not what this verse teaches.

It actually means the righteous are saved **through difficulties**. Believers are saved through many difficulties. Believers are saved through seasons of suffering. Intense difficulty and suffering comes our way because of loyalty to Christ and if we suffer for

loyalty to Christ how much more will people suffer who reject Christ. I think that's the idea. Not barely saved, but saved through suffering.

Are you still with me? Is suffering as a Christian bad news or good news? It is good news. Suffering is to be expected. But it's good news because through it all we keep rejoicing because it is commanded, we keep rejoicing because it is confirming and we are careful - remembering that when we suffer for our own sin God will discipline us but that is good news because it means God loves us. He treats us different than the world around us when we sin.

So, what is Peter's final word on persecution and suffering?

3. Christians rejoice when suffering comes because is it under God's control\_- 1 Peter 4:19

1 Peter 4:19, "Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good."

God is our faithful creator who allows suffering into our lives to make us more like Christ. Many well intentioned Christians think wrongly about the will of God as it relates to suffering. How? They think a good God would never cause suffering. But that is not true. Doing God's will and suffering for it is God's will. It's part of the all things that we have been learning about in the middle of Romans 8 that God causes to work for good to conform us into the image of Christ.

When you suffer for doing the will of God you give it over to your faithful Creator and you keep doing good. To do good is a main theme in 1 Peter. Keep doing good when the people around you are not. Embrace suffering as part of the will of God and when it comes entrust the most important part of who you are to your faithful creator. When you suffer entrust your soul to God.

George Matheson learned to entrust his soul to God on many occasions. June 6, 1882, was the day of his sister's marriage, and his family was staying overnight in Glasgow, Scotland. Something happened to forty-year-old George as he sat alone there in the darkness of his blindness, something known only to himself, something that caused him severe mental suffering. He never confided to anyone what the problem was, and yet his heart cried out to Christ. As his heart moaned, words welled up in his mind, words of comfort. He wrote:

*O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain,  
That morn shall tearless be.*

When suffering comes we don't bottle it up. We give it over to the Lord. And we keep doing good. We stay the course. By God's grace we keep pursuing God's will above our own will knowing His will is always best for our lives.

So, let me try and summarize what we learned this morning. Suffering Christians rejoice in the Lord because it is commanded and because it is conforming. When we suffer we need to slow down and be careful - be careful that your own sin is not the reason you are suffering. If it is God loves you so much that He will discipline you. He will not judge you for your sin like the rest of the world. When you suffer keep entrusting your soul to God, your faithful creator. He is faithful. He cannot lie. All His promises to you in Christ are yes and amen. He is for you and not against you. Keep doing good. Keep your eyes on Christ and keep seeking to obey Him in all you do.

I hope that as we conclude this section in 1 Peter on suffering that the middle of 1 Peter will always be a section we go back to when we suffer for doing the will of God to give us the help we need to glorify God and we don't waste our suffering. Let's pray.

