

COVID Questions: How do we endure suffering?

5.3.20 // 1 Peter 1:3-9 // Pastor Rob

How do we endure suffering? It's one thing to get through something hard because you see the light at the end of the tunnel, it's another thing to walk through a season of suffering knowing that things aren't going to end any time soon. Thankfully, there is deep wisdom in scripture to help us endure in this moment and show us what God is up to.

- Briefly give an update on how you're doing with your group.
- What are some of your initial thoughts on how we can *endure* suffering? Does this feel like a time of "enduring" verses just "getting through? Why/Why not?
- Discuss the following definitions of suffering.
 - *Suffering is **not** having what you want and **having** what you do not want.* -Elisabeth Elliot
 - *Suffering is the opposite of God's intended life of flourishing for his creation*
- How does it make you feel or how does it give you hope to know that suffering isn't God's main plan for humanity? Notice how the Bible begins and ends (see Genesis 1:31 and Revelation 21:4).
- Read 1 Peter 1:3-9. Who is Peter writing too? Why is that significant for the truths he shares with us?
- What is Peter's main point in verse 3? How does remembering your own story of salvation, help you know God will bring you through this present suffering?
- How does knowing that your future is secure and unchanging, help you endure the ever changing reality of life and especially during this COVID moment? (see v.4-5)
- Read v6-7. Why is it significant that Peter acknowledges that their suffering was bringing them real grief? Does anyone have any real "grief" they need to share?
- Have someone explain the process of purifying metal?
- How is this moment of suffering or past moments purified you? Is there any purifying work you need to share with your group that God is doing in your life right now?
- What do you think about the amazing truth in v7 that our purified lives actually bring glory to Jesus? Discuss.