

## November 27th – When Suffering is Better

*“For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.”*

(1 Peter 3:17)

As human beings we try to avoid suffering at all costs. We take medications, go to the doctor, and take many other preventative measures. But sometimes, no matter how hard we try, suffering becomes a part of life. We’re diagnosed with an illness, a friend turns their back on us, a child goes down the wrong path, etc. Some of our suffering is self-inflicted, but much of our suffering is beyond our control. It’s just part of living in a fallen world.

Though none of us would ever prefer suffering, Peter reminds us that it’s actually better to suffer sometimes than not to suffer at all. He says, “it is better...to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.” For example, you find yourself in a situation where people start using drugs and alcohol. The users begin to pressure you to join them in their substance abuse. If you say yes, you sin against God. If you say no, you will probably be mocked as a party-pooper. What do you do?

Peter is very clear – it’s much better to be mocked by the world and be honored by God. He and his fellow apostles knew something about suffering. Did you know that every apostle, except John, died a martyr’s death? Some of them were hanged. Some were sawn in two. Some were beheaded. And Peter suffered the worst death. According to church history, Peter was sentenced to crucifixion, but he made one request of his executioners. He asked to be crucified upside down, as he didn’t feel worthy to die in the same way as His Savior. So, suffering is difficult, but obedience to God is worth it all!