

“Surprised By Suffering”

1 Peter 4:12-19

I. Response to Suffering

A. Wrong Response

John 15:19,20

If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you

Philippians 1:29

For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake

2 Timothy 3:12

Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

I. Response to Suffering

A. Wrong Response

B. Right Response

1. What it is

2 Corinthians 1:5

For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.

Colossians 1:24

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions

Acts 5:40,41

after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then released them. So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.

I. Response to Suffering

A. Wrong Response

B. Right Response

1. What it is

2. Reasons for Joyful Response

a. Expectation of Glory

“you may be overjoyed when his glory is
revealed.” (NIV)

Colossians 3:4

When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

Romans 8:16-18

The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

“If we consider...the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that our Lord finds our desires, not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures...like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

-C.S. Lewis

I. Response to Suffering

A. Wrong Response

B. Right Response

1. What it is

2. Reasons for Joyful Response

a. Expectation of Glory

b. We Are Blessed

Matthew 5:10-12

“Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in this same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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1. What it is

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3. Summary

II. Word of Caution

A. Suffer for the right reason

B. Don't be ashamed

C. Glorify God

I. Response to Suffering

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II. Word of Caution

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III. How God Uses Suffering

A. His Judgment on His People

Ephesians 5:27

that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

I. Response to Suffering

A. Wrong Response

B. Right Response

II. Word of Caution

A. Suffer for the right reason

B. Don't be ashamed

C. Glorify God

III. How God Uses Suffering

A. His Judgment on His People

B. A Warning to the Unbeliever

“If it is hard for the righteous to be saved...” (NIV)

“If the righteous are barely saved...” (NLT)

John 16:33

These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

Acts 14:22

strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and *saying*, “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”

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A. Wrong Response

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II. Word of Caution

A. Suffer for the right reason

B. Don't be ashamed

C. Glorify God

III. God's Perspective on Suffering

A. His Judgment on His People

B. Part of the Difficulty of Being Saved

IV. Conclusion

“So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.” (NIV)

Psalm 139

Vs. 13 - For You formed my inward parts;
You wove me in my mother's womb.

Vs. 16 - Your eyes have seen my
unformed substance; And in Your book
were all written the days that were
ordained *for me*, When as yet there was
not one of them.

“If we consider the greatness and the glory of the life we shall have when we have risen from the dead, it would not be difficult at all for us to bear the concerns of this world. If I believe the Word, I shall on the Last Day, after the sentence has been pronounced, not only gladly have suffered ordinary temptations, insults, and imprisonment, but I shall also say: "O, that I did not throw myself under the feet of all the godless for the sake of the great glory which I now see revealed and which has come to me through the merit of Christ!" Martin Luther.

