

Suffering?
Keep on doing what is
right!



1 Peter 4:19

Introduction



- **Winding down our yearly three-fold congregational theme of renewal, refreshment and radiate**
- **We all know that suffering can snuff out our candle**
- **Two kinds of suffering related to our faith**
- **Both kinds of suffering need a grounded model.**
- **“Suffering Servant” model of Jesus.**

Introduction



- **Perspective painted for us regarding the nature of suffering by Peter**
- **Four specific actions to give us guidance in both kinds of suffering that test our faith!**
- **All four actions are enjoined upon the readers because they naturally want to pursue the opposite**

Do not be surprised



- **As though something strange**
- **Christian life is characterized by circumspect living, Eph 5:15 (KJV)**
- **Take heed (watch out) carefully how you walk**
- **They are surprised that you do not now join them**
- **What has surprised you in the Christian life?**

Rejoice

- In the midst of what could be fear, despair, and lack of hope
- Two kinds of rejoicing
- Rejoice and be glad



Do not be ashamed

- Honor and shame very important cultural value.
- **Luke 11:8**—responds because of reputation & honor, does not want to bring shame on the family & the community
- **1 Peter 3:16**
- **1 Peter 4:16**
- **1 Peter 2:6**



Do not be ashamed

- **Blessed, though reproached.**
- **Have I ever been ashamed of being a Christian, especially being reproached or made to stand out in shame?**
- **There is nothing to be ashamed about!**
- **Think of how we would feel ...**

Do not be ashamed

- Peter's strategy: "(1 Peter 2:12 – NIV)
- **12** Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Commit to Creator



- This Creator is “faithful.” Commit to Faithful Father.
- Why? Because the spirit of glory and of God rests upon you! (**1 Peter 4:14**).
- In the last part of the 1st century and into the 2nd century, some in the Greco-Roman world thought that just “wearing the name” of Christ was a punishable crime.

Commit to Creator



- **Pliny asks Roman emperor, Trajan, about it.**
- **Commit to creator implies a deepening of one's original commitment!**
- **This also implies that suffering, etc. can challenge the steadfastness and perseverance of our original commitment!**

“Commitment” motif abounds in 1 Peter!

- Genuineness...tested by fire (**1:7**)
- Outcome of your faith (**1:9**)
- Set your hope fully on the grace that is coming (**1:13**)
- Conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile (**1:17**).

“Commitment” motif abounds in 1 Peter!

- **Grow up to salvation (2:2)**
- **Maintain good conduct (2:12)**
- **Be subject for the Lord’s sake (2:13)**
–government, masters,
- **Live as free servants of God (2:16)**

“Commitment” motif abounds in 1 Peter!

- You have now returned (**2:25**)
- Arm yourselves with the thought of Christ (**4:1**)
- Above all, hold unfailing your love for one another (**4:8**)
- Stand fast in the true grace of God (**5:12**)

Conclusion



- **What is the suffering in my life that keeps me from loving God, following Jesus, and being led by the Spirit the way I should?**

1 Peter 3:13-17



- **13** Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? **14** But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” **15** But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

1 Peter 3:13-17



- But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷ For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.