

Redefining Our View of Suffering

1 Peter 4:12-19

– David Cole –

We can rejoice in our sufferings and trust our faithful Creator through our sufferings.

1. Suffering is commonplace for the Christian (4:12-13)

- a. Christ suffered for us, therefore we also will encounter suffering for His sake.
 - i. Matthew 10:24-25
 - ii. Mark 13:13
 - iii. Philippians 1:29
- b. We must have the same attitude that was in Christ Jesus as He suffered.
 - i. 1 Peter 4:1-2
 - ii. Philippians 2:5-9

2. We can rejoice in our sufferings (4:13-14)

- a. Have an upward perspective on suffering
 - i. 2 Corinthians 4:17-18
- b. Suffering in Christ is a blessing
 - i. Acts 5:41-42

3. Wrong and right reasons for suffering (4:15-16)

- a. Do not suffer as a result of our sin (murderer, thief, evildoer, gossip, meddler)
- b. Suffer as a Christian for the sake of Christ's name
 - i. 2 Timothy 3:10-17

4. We can trust the Lord in our suffering (4:17-19)

- a. Suffering is designed to refine us and purify us (judgment)
 - i. Proverbs 11:31
- b. We can trust Him because He is our Creator
 - i. 1 Peter 5:10-11

Life Application:

1. Was there something difficult with what the Lord was speaking to you about suffering today? Surrender that to Him and ask Him to help you have a redefined view of suffering.

2. Are you currently in the midst of suffering? How might you entrust yourself to the Faithful Creator that you might rejoice and express thanksgiving even in the midst of your suffering?
3. Are you suffering for the right reason or the wrong reason? If the wrong reason, repent today and walk in a path of restoration and reconciliation with the Father. If you are suffering for the right reason, give thanks to God and grow in the area that the Father is wanting to refine in you.
4. Do you truly trust the Father loves you and is working for your good? Receive His love today.
5. Do you know that your suffering is temporary, or are you not sure if your sins have been forgiven and you are in the right relationship with the Father through the Son? If you have not believed the gospel, that Jesus is the Son of God, lived a sinless life, died for your sins, was buried, on the 3rd day rose again and is seated at the right hand of God the Father.
6. Does the reality of eternal suffering in hell for those apart from Christ move you to greater urgency to proclaim Christ to the lost? With whom might you share this week?