

# FIRST PETER

## Part 97

### “The Right Kind of Suffering”

*Presented by*

Pastor Ron Schafer

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Suffering is not our favorite topic. Many times we seem to even avoid the topic altogether. Yet, suffering is a valid part of every person's life. It really does not matter if we talk about it or not, we all still suffer at times here on earth.

Most suffering involves painful consequences. The pain can be mental, physical or both. The pain can also be very intense and disabling, or dull and nagging.

Now as strange as it may seem, some suffering is actually good for us. The long range benefits are very positive. Some suffering, as a result of rebellion, should be avoided by a carefully thought out strategy. So let's talk about suffering!

# SUFFERING DEFINED

I Peter 3:17

- "Suffering" can mean...

- To experience a sensation or **impression**, usually painful.
- To be affected with, or undergo, a painful circumstance or **episode**.
- To be **affected**.
- To be exposed to **unpleasant** consequences.

# SUFFERING AS A RESULT OF WRONG DOING

I Peter 3:17

- Because of **sin**. (personal)

- I Peter 4:15 = The consequences are **very** painful.
- I Corinthians 11:30 = Sin always has **earthly** consequences.

- Because of sin (**Adamic**)

- Acts 28:3 = The **animal** kingdom inflicts pain on mankind.

- Acts 27:13-20 = "**Nature**" causes great pain through storms and natural catastrophes.

## SUFFERING AS A RESULT OF DOING RIGHT

### I Peter 3:17

- I Peter 2:21-24 and Philippians 3:10 = By living a righteous **life** there will be suffering.
- II Timothy 1:8-12 = For the sharing and proclamation of the **Gospel**.
- I Peter 4:16 = Just being **saved** brings us suffering.
- I Peter 3:17 and 4:19 = God's **will** is that we suffer so that we **depend** upon Him and not our own **strength**.

# FINAL THOUGHTS

- As believers, we must have a proper **view** of suffering.
- In this **life**, on this **earth**, there will always be all kinds of suffering.

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. What is your view of suffering? Explain.
2. Until today, have you only thought of suffering in a negative light? Why?
3. What is the most difficult part of suffering?
4. Do you struggle with the idea that our Loving God desires that we suffer?