

Suffering

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:12-19 NIV
v. 19 KJV

Introduction

In recent years, a philosophy has entered the church in western nations that Christians will never suffer, and that it is never God's will for a Christian to suffer. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

I. Let them that suffer according to the will of God

1 Peter 4:12 NIV Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.

A. Suffering because of the actions of the flesh

Galatians 6:7-8 NIV Do not be deceived. God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

Example: David after his sin with Bathsheba

B. Suffering because of satanic oppression
Job 2:6 NIV The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life."

Example: Job's testing

C. Suffering because of God's discipline process

2 Corinthians 12:8-9 NIV Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Example: Paul's "thorn in the flesh"

II. Commit the keeping of their souls unto Him

2 Timothy 1:12 NIV ...Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have

believed, and am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

A. The body is not redeemed

1. Romans 8:22-23 cf. 1 Corinthians 5:1-5

2. All men have an appointment with death

Hebrews 9:27a NIV Just as man is destined to die once

B. Death, sin's first penalty, has not been removed

1 Corinthians 15:26 NIV The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

C. God is the keeper of the soul

D. God's emphasis is on the spiritual

III. As unto a faithful Creator

1 Thessalonians 5:24 NIV The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 NIV But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

A. Faithful to you in your temptation

1 Corinthians 10:13 NIV No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you are able to bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

B. Faithful to you in your suffering

C. Faithful to you in every situation