



The Reality of Suffering and Persecution
An Understanding about
SUFFERING

1 Peter 3:13

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible Page Number is 1115.

In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Word is printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.

Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. • Pastor Joe's email: Joe@southreno.com

Review

1. We are called to a higher level of living.
2. We must deliberately decide to love and live our life in Christ.
3. We must do good and hate evil.
4. We must live today fully aware of what is really important.

STUDY SECTION

STUDY VERSE SECTION - 1 Peter 3:13, NASB95 - ¹³ *Who is there to harm [lit., distress] you if you prove [lit., become] zealous [Gk: zelotes, it means "intensity"] for what is good [Gk. agathos, lit. "God's good (thing)"]?*

Matt. 19:16-17, NASB95 - ¹⁶ *And someone came to Him and said, "Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?" ¹⁷ And He said to him, "Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments."*

Some Introductory Thoughts about Suffering

1. Suffering is part of living in a "fallen world." (John 16:33)
2. Suffering is unrelated to our own personal goodness. (Matthew 5:45; Luke 13:1-5)
3. Suffering amplifies God's message; we need a savior—His name is Jesus! (2 Pet. 3:9-10)

Two Key Passages Regarding "Suffering"

❶ **STUDY VERSE SECTION - James 1:2-5, NASB95** - ² *Consider it all joy, [Biblical Joy is "the ability to see spiritual truths and eternal realities in the midst of any situation" (ATR)] my brethren, when [not "if"] you encounter various [a word almost untranslatable into English; it denotes 'every kind' (big, small, long, short, wide, thin, color, black, white, brief, lifelong, etc.) trials, ³ *knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.* ⁴ *And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.* ⁵ *But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.**

- A. There is a *definiteness* about trials—they are coming.
- B. There is an *indefiniteness* about trials—we don't know when or how big.

❷ **STUDY VERSE SECTION—Romans 8:28, NASB95** - ²⁸ *And we [as Christians] know [intuitively and can experience personally] that God causes [lit., "harmonizes"] all [every single one—all] things to work [we get our English word "synergy" from this word together for good [Gk: agathos, lit., "God's good"] to those who (1) love God, and (2) to those who are called according to His [i.e., eternal] purpose.*

- A. There is something **CONFIDENTIAL** about our suffering
"And we know..."
- B. There is something **COMPREHENSIVE** about our sufferings.
"...that all things work together..."
- C. There is something **CONSTRUCTIVE** about our sufferings.
"...for good..."
- D. There is something **CONDITIONAL** about our sufferings.
"...to those who love God...called according to His purposes."

If God promised His servants an unbroken run of prosperity, there would be many counterfeit Christians. Don't be surprised at suffering...it is permitted to root you deeper just as a strong wind makes the tree grapple deep into the soil.

– Dr. F.B. Meyer

The trials and difficulties we face in life should be a reminder to us all that 'this world is not our home; we're just a pass'n through.' If life were too good here on Earth, we might have a thought of wanting to stay here and miss Heaven. Suffering is a witness that we left the perfect Garden of Eden. Suffering is the impetus for the believer to long for Heaven—not Earth.

– Pastor Joe

As a follower of Christ, you can be certain that in God's hands, intended evil becomes eventual good.

– Pastor Joe