



## The Reality of Suffering and Persecution

# God's Grace in SUFFERING

1 Peter 3:13-18

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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. Suffering is part of living in a "fallen world," is unrelated to our own personal goodness, and amplifies God's message that we need a Savior.
2. Two key biblical passages for suffering are James 1:2-5 (there is a definiteness, indefiniteness about our trials) and Romans 8:28 (there is something confidential, comprehensive, constructive and conditional) about sufferings.

### STUDY SECTION

*To Receive God's Grace in our Sufferings, We Must:*

## 1. Maintain a passion for "God's Good Thing."

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

## 2. Maintain a willingness to suffer.

**STUDY VERSE SECTION 1 Peter 3:14, 17, NASB95** -<sup>14</sup> *But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed [ie., it denotes privilege, not effect]. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED [lit., "not be shaken"]...<sup>17</sup> For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.*

## 3. Maintain a devotion to Christ.

**STUDY VERSE SECTION - 1 Peter 3:15, NASB95** -<sup>15</sup> *but sanctify [Gk: hagioazo, hagi means to "burn" (as on an altar); oazo, lit., "to chain," it paints a picture of surrender; it means "to set apart as holy"] Christ as Lord in your hearts...*

**Our enemies or circumstances might hurt us, but they cannot harm us.**

**Only we can harm ourselves if we fail to surrender to Christ as Lord.**

**IMPORTANT: Surrendering fully to Christ is the battle of every heart.**

## 4. Maintain a readiness to defend the faith.

**STUDY VERSE SECTION - 1 Peter 3:15, NASB95** -<sup>15</sup> *but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense [Gk: apologia gives us our word "apology;" it doesn't mean saying "I'm sorry;" it is a legal term, it is a formal defense in a judicial courtroom on a matter] to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence [Note: We are witnesses, not prosecuting attorneys! Our purpose is not to win an argument, but to win lost souls to Christ]...*

## 5. Maintain a pure conscience.

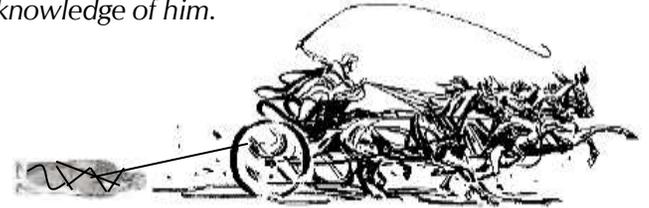
**STUDY VERSE SECTION - 1 Peter 3:16, NASB95** -<sup>16</sup> *and keep a good conscience [con means "with;" scio means "to know..." or "to prove" via a standard (i.e., God's Holy Word); our conscience, when guided by God's Word, is that internal judge that witnesses to us about "God's Good Thing"] so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.*

[A Good Resource: *The Vanishing Conscience* by Dr. John MacArthur].

### LIFE APPLICATION SECTION

*An Insight about "sanctifying Christ as Lord of your heart"*

**2 Corinthians 2:14, NIV84** -<sup>14</sup> *But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.*



**2 Corinthians 2:14, NLT** -<sup>14</sup> *But thank God! He has made us his captives and continues to lead us along in Christ's triumphal procession. Now he uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume.*

**A. Surrender involves His victory over us.**

**B. Surrender involves our victory through submission.**

**C. Surrender involves total victory in any situation.**