

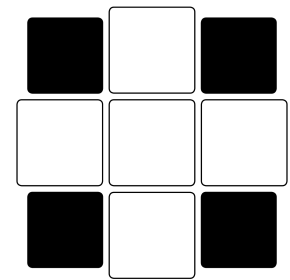
Gospel Suffering Part 2

Scripture: **1 Peter 4:12–19**

Series: **Standing in Grace**

Sunday, November 2, 2014

Corroborating Texts: James 1:2-4; Acts 5:41; Matthew 5:11; Hebrews 12:2



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Overview

Expect suffering, rejoice in suffering, don't suffer out of your sinfulness, for God is faithful to those who trust him in the midst of suffering.

Discussion Questions

1. Look at verse 12. When is a time that suffering came as a surprise to you? This could be the first time that you really experienced suffering. Share that time. How did that change you? Why do people get surprised by suffering? [poor theology / lack of experience] How does suffering test us? [it can prove, validate, and verify our faith]
2. Look at verses 13 and 14. What is the problem with pretending that there is no suffering? [it can deny help, fellowship, and be deceptive.] Why is it so important to rejoice now in suffering? [it is preparation for more difficult times ahead] What are the two key places from which suffering comes? [suffering for the faith / suffering from living in a fallen, broken world] Which of these two do you feel most vividly or frequently? Why do you think this is? Look at James 1:2-4. How are we to carry on as we suffer?
3. Look at verses 15 and 16. How is this passage significant? What does verse 15 warn us against and why? Verse 16 says to not be ashamed. Why do we often feel ashamed of suffering? What is untrue about this shame?
4. Look at verses 17 and 18. What does it mean to **obey the gospel**? [repentance and faith] What kind of suffering will sinners who disobey the gospel experience? Where else do we see this in Scripture? How should we respond to this knowledge? [with an urgency to share the gospel]
5. Look at verse 19. Why is it so hard to trust God in the face of suffering? When was a time that your faith was tested through suffering? How did God prove himself to you in the midst of that suffering?