

First Church of God

September 8, 2013

Sermon Outline

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**“How To Deal With Suffering”
I Peter 4:12 – 19**

¹²Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. ¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸And,

*If it is hard for the
righteous to be saved,
what will become of the
ungodly and the sinner?”*

¹⁹So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

INTRODUCTION:

We know what suffering is, but we don’t know how to deal with it.

How do people deal with suffering in our world?

Denial

This can be a refusing to accept a diagnosis or a death, or trying to escape by alcohol or drugs.

Anger

Elie Wiesel, a Jew who went through the Holocaust writes in his book, “Night” as though he shakes his fist in anger at God for allowing 6,000,000 Jews to die in the Nazi gas chambers of World War II.

Withdraw

Some who suffer, retreat from people into their own world.

Self-Pity

It’s easy to ask the question: “Why me Lord?” We must not take a few isolated scriptures and assume that if a miracle does not immediately occur we are not spiritual or are lacking in faith.

Peter gives us some suggestions on how a Christian can deal with suffering when it comes along.

**I. LEARN TO EXPECT SUFFERING.
(I 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.”

I Peter 4:12a Amplified Bible “Beloved, do not be amazed and bewildered at the fiery ordeal which is taking place **to test your quality...**

A. There is not immunity from suffering merely because we are Christians.

Matthew 10:22...Jesus speaking: “All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

B. Suffering is a refining process.

Painful or fiery_literally means or smelting process where gold and silver is refined

C. Suffering can be a positive or negative force, depending on how much we use it.

- 1. Satan wants to use suffering to **destroy** us. (I Peter 5:8-9) ⁸Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for

