

What About Suffering?

1 Peter 3.17-22

For Peter to say “it is God's will that we suffer” is to introduce a powerful factor in our understanding of the mystery of suffering. People react to suffering in a variety of ways. Very often attitudes toward suffering are closely related to attitudes towards God which, in turn, affect attitudes to the rest of life.

Insight Into the Sufferings of Christ and the Glories That Would Follow

¹⁷ *It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.* ¹⁸ *For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,* ¹⁹ *through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison* ²⁰ *who disobeyed long ago.*

- **The sufferings of Christ were predetermined.**

¹⁰ *Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when **he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.*** 1 Peter 1.10-11

- **The sufferings of Christ were for our sins – propitiatory.**

¹⁸ *For **Christ died for sins...***

- **The sufferings of Christ are substitutionary.**

¹⁸ *For Christ died for sins once for all, **the righteous for the unrighteous...***

Romans 5.8

- **The sufferings of Christ are final.**

¹⁸ *For Christ died for sins **once for all...***

Hebrews 10.12-14

- **The sufferings of Christ were reconciliatory.**

¹⁸ *For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, **to bring you to God.***

2 Corinthians 5.17-19

- **The sufferings of Christ were brutal.**

¹⁸ *For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. **He was put to death in the body...***

- **The sufferings of Christ were temporary.**

¹⁸ *For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but **made alive by the Spirit...***

Identification with Baptism and the Sufferings of Christ

²⁰ *God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand – with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.* 1 Peter 3.20-22

Participation in the Sufferings of Christ

¹⁷ *It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.* ¹⁸ *For Christ died...*

D. Stuart Briscoe. *When the Going Gets Tough*. Regal Books, Ventura, CA, 1982.

Norman Hillyer. *New International Biblical Commentary: 1 and 2 Peter, Jude*. Hendrickson Publishers, Peabody, MA, 2002.

I. Howard Marshall. *The IVP New Testament Commentary Series: 1 Peter*. InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 1991.