

HOW TO COPE WITH SUFFERING

**Ever
Felt
This
Way?**



Summary of Today's Message

Pain and suffering dominate our world. To some, that poses an insurmountable roadblock to faith in a good and loving God. How can a loving God let such unlovely things happen all around the globe every day for millennia?

Summary of Today's Message

Not only is this a deal breaker for unbelievers, but it presents a quandary for believers who want to make sense out of everything in life.

The apostle Peter weighed in on these issues in a very personal way to his fellow Christians.

THE TWO POSITIVES OF SUFFERING

(1) Do Be Selective in Suffering (vv.16-17)

Christian (v. 16)

You only find this word three times in the whole Bible
Early Christians called themselves believers, the Way,
or brethren

THE TWO POSITIVES OF SUFFERING

Christian was a derogatory nickname given by Romans and Greeks who wanted to set them apart from the rest of the Roman Empire

THE TWO POSITIVES OF SUFFERING

Most people of the Roman Empire were called
Kaisarianos, followers of Caesar

Christians were given the name *Christianos*, followers
of Christ

Over time, early believers embraced the name
Christian

THE TWO POSITIVES OF SUFFERING

What did Peter mean in verse 17?

Simply what he had already been saying: the work of a loving God using suffering to purify His church

We are saved through difficult times;

Matthew 7:13-14

THE TWO POSITIVES OF SUFFERING

(2) Do Be Sensitized by Suffering (v. 19)

Commit is a banking term that means to deposit something for safekeeping

When you deposit your trust in God's bank, you will get dividends of blessings in your account

THE TWO POSITIVES OF SUFFERING

Better translation: "And continue to be doing what is right and what is good"

If doing good is what got you in trouble in the first place, you'd think, "I better not do any more good"

Peter said, "Don't do that; commit that to God and continue to do good"

THE TWO POSITIVES OF SUFFERING

Christians started the first hospitals and orphanages

Christianity was birthed into a hostile, brutal,
Greco-Roman world that saw life as disposable

Closing Thoughts

We're His hands and His feet; we're the body of Christ

Why can't "acts of God" be when He enacts love and compassion through the life of one of His children