

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 NEGATIVES OF SUFFERING

(1) Don't Be Surprised by Suffering (v. 12)

"How could a God of love who's all-powerful ever allow evil to exist?"

Formal term: *theodicy*

Whenever you ask why there's so much evil in the world, you only ask that because you have some notion that there is supreme good

THE TWO NEGATIVES OF SUFFERING

C.S. Lewis

"If the universe is so bad...how on earth did human beings ever come to attribute it to the activity of a wise and good Creator?"

THE TWO NEGATIVES OF SUFFERING

If more than ninety percent of all the people who have ever lived on earth have believed in God, where did that notion come from?

If there's no God, there are no ultimate values; if there are no ultimate values, there's no such thing as good or evil

THE TWO NEGATIVES OF SUFFERING

Fiery trial (v. 12)

In the summer of AD 64, Rome burned; most people believe Caesar Nero started the fire

The population nearly revolted, and Nero blamed the Christians

THE TWO NEGATIVES OF SUFFERING

Fiery trial (v. 12)

He put many of them on poles, doused them in pitch,
and used them as torches to light up the imperial
gardens at night

This began a two-hundred-year reign of terror against
Roman believers

THE TWO NEGATIVES OF SUFFERING

(2) Don't Be Scared by Suffering (vv. 13-14)

Someone asked C.S. Lewis, "Why do the righteous suffer?" and he answered, "Why not? They're the only ones who can take it"

THE TWO NEGATIVES OF SUFFERING

God has a purpose for it

It makes you pure; 1 Peter 1:6-7

It humbles you

It makes you depend on God like nothing else