



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis
April 21, 2013
Doubts & Answers

desert breeze community church

“Why Does God Allow Suffering?” 1Peter 1:3-12

It is a question that is as old as the first tear, and as recent as the latest newscast. People defect from the faith because they are deceived by the pleasures of life and/or disillusioned by the pressures of life intensified by the skeptics all around us in life.

Two Ways NOT to Face Suffering: vv6-7

1) Moralizing – Live a good life and you’ll have a good life.

A – Bad things can & will happen to good people.
(1Pet5:12-13; Job1:8; John16:33; James1:2;
2Tim3:12)

2) Minimizing – Its proof there is no God or He’s incompetent, make the best of it.

A – God is not the cause of suffering but is in complete control of it and just because you can’t see a reason why God would allow suffering doesn’t mean there can’t be one (or thousands).
(Gen3; Job1:20-22; Isa.55:8-9; John9:1-7; Acts12:1-2)

Three Ways to Face Suffering:

**1) Look to the past at what He has done (Cross) vv3, 10-11
(Rom8:28-32; Gen50:20)**

**2) Look to the future to what He will do (Crown) vv4-8
(James 1:2-4, 12; 2Cor4:16-18)**

**3) Look to the present to what He is doing (Christ) v8,
12 (Heb12:1-3; Dan3:14-26; Isa.43:1b-2)**

Isa.43:1b-2 “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.”



Growing

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- 1) Shootings, bombings, disease, death, natural disasters... Why do you think these seemingly regular disturbances leave us with questions about God's goodness & active control over the world? To what do people often turn to in times of sorrow & suffering?
- 2) Read 1Peter1:3-12 (Keep in mind that Peter is writing to people who suffering a great deal). What stands out to you? Peter mentions "grief" in v6, the context is community & the outlook is hope. How important is it to release your grief to God & receive from friends to keep from becoming bitter in suffering?
- 3) What two ways are you NOT to face suffering and what are the arguments against these ways Biblically? How a person thinks (believes) about an event determines how he feels & behaves in response to it. Why is a Biblical world view not only important for surviving but thriving in suffering?
- 4) What are the three ways to face suffering? How does looking back to the Cross help us to face suffering (v3, 10-11; Rom8:28-32; Gen50:20)? How does looking to the future to what He will do help us face suffering (vv4-8; James 1:2-4, 12; 2Cor 4:16-18)?
- 5) How does looking to the present to what He is doing help us face suffering (v8, 12; Heb12:1-3; Dan 3:14-26; Isa.43:1b-2)? Because Jesus Christ went into the ultimate furnace for you, the only furnace that can really consume you--the Cross, there's your assurance that He is walking in your personal furnace with you. Explain. Pray.