

"DO NOT BE SUPRISED" BY _____

OPENING QUESTION: What are you avoiding?

• I Peter 4:19

"In this one verse is summarized the teaching of the entire letter. Christians do not suffer accidentally or because of the irresistible forces of blind fate; rather, they suffer according to God's will."

– Wayne Grudem, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries

TODAY'S QUESTION: Why suffer?

SERIES QUESTION: Why the Church?

TODAY'S ANSWER: Because we all _____!

SERIES THEME and TEXT: To restore our confidence in and commitment to being the people of God -- I Peter 2:9, 10

▶ To have confidence as Christians we must have a _____ understanding of the sufferings and trials of life.

TODAY'S TEXT: I Peter 4:12-19 (see also 1:6; 2:19,21; 3:17,18 & 5:10)

▶ Much of this book is about suffering and trials!
> This is a huge topic that cannot be avoided.

I. WE SUFFER BECAUSE THERE IS A _____ TO BE PAID

A. LIFE IS PRECIOUS

▶ Suffering is about the _____ of life.

Question → Why does a mother go through the pain of child birth?

• John 16:21

Question → Why do parents put up with the trials of raising kids?

Question → Why don't we give up when we suffer?

Answer → Life is _____ suffering for!

▶ Canada is facing a moral crisis on this very topic!

Question → When is a life not longer worth living or suffering for?

→ Is suffering a reason to end a life?

→ Have we lost our understanding about the value of a life?

TODAY'S QUESTION: Why suffer?

B. LIFE IS PRECIOUS TO _____

▶ Everything we know about life must be measured by the life and death of Jesus.

> If we forget Christ and His Cross we forget our _____ value.

• I Peter 2:21; 3:18

> This is the _____ of every human soul!

▶ To avoid talking about suffering is to avoid the Cross!

> The _____ of the Church must always be measured by the Cross of Christ. Our character and calling must be the values represented by the sufferings of Jesus!

• 4:13

▶ The sufferings and trials of life raise huge questions that need serious, sympathetic answers from Christians.

Question → Is I Peter 2:24 my message to suffering and lost souls?

TODAY'S QUESTION: Why suffer?

II. WE SUFFER BECAUSE THERE IS A PAIN THAT _____

• v.11

Question → Does suffering do any good?

A. PAIN SAYS THERE IS A _____

▶ Pain is a voice that must be heard!

"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

- C.S. Lewis, The Problem of Pain

▶ Pain isn't the problem but screams about the problem

Question → What happens if we keep killing the pain and not treating the problem?

> To avoid pain is to welcome disaster!

Question → What pain am I avoiding because I don't want to deal with a problem?

→ Are we pain killers or problem solvers?

B. _____ PROVIDES PAIN TO PURIFY US!

- ▶ The Bible describes suffering and pain as fire.
 - v.12
 - 1:7
 - Isaiah 48:10

- ▶ God always has a _____ in our pain
 - > He is always refining our faith & developing our character.
 - v.14 -19

 - > There is no _____ in suffering as God's child.

Question → *But when we suffer, do we forget who(se) we are?*

- Zechariah 13:9

Question → Have I wander away from God's Word?

- Psalm 119:67, 71

LORD, I WILL REJOICE IN MY PAIN OF _____.
PLEASE USE IT! PURIFY MY FAITH AND MAKE ME STRONGER.

TODAY'S QUESTION: Why suffer?

III. WE SUFFER BECAUSE THERE IS A _____ TO BE PURSUED

- ▶ No matter how long our pain and suffering is, it is only a _____ experience designed for an _____ purpose and joy!
 - I Peter 1:6; 5:10,11
 - Romans 8:16-18
 - II Corinthians 4:16-18

CONCLUDING QUESTION: IS IT WELL WITH YOUR SOUL?

KINGSWAY LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

(Warning: You are going to be talking about your experience with pain, suffering, and the trials of life.)

Open with prayer and then read the Bible text from Sunday's message.

I Peter 1:6,7; 2:19-24; 3:17,18; 4:12-19 & 5:10,11

> Describe one of the most difficult things you have suffered to this point in your life.

- Were you surprised that it happened to you?
- How did you handle it?
- How did those around you respond?
- What helped? What didn't help?
- What would you say to someone who might be experiencing something similar?
- What good has come for it?
- What have you learned from it?
- How do you think it has changed you?

Close with prayer. Be sensitive to those who may be in the middle of something right now.