

“The Theology of Suffering: Believer’s Response to Suffering (3)”

(2 Timothy 3:10-12; 1 Peter 2-4)

A Message Series on the Theology of Suffering... Is it Relevant?

Last Message: 4 Reasons of Suffering that Christians go through...

Today’s Message: The Right Response to Suffering

I. Must Believers Go Through Suffering and Persecutions?

A. Suffering/Persecution is Not the End in itself, but the Beginning of a Glorious Future

B. The New Testament is written by Persecuted Believers to Persecuted Believers (James 1:2-4; 2 Timothy 3:10-12)

**Suffering Persecution is the Norm for Every Believer
Who is Committed to Follow Christ**

II. Believers’ Response When Under Persecution

A. Definition of Persecution: Suffering... Resulting from a Believer Living for Christ, and/or for a Biblically-based Conviction

B. Four Responses

1. Self-examination (1 Peter 2:19-20a; 4:15)

2. Follow in Christ’s Steps (1 Peter 2:20b-23a)

3. Witness without Fear (1 Peter 3:13-17)

“The Blood of Martyrs is the Seed of the Church” – Tertullian

4. Armed With the “Attitude of Suffering” (1 Peter 4:1a)

C. Present Blessings in Suffering Persecution (1 Peter 4:1b-2)

1. Choose to Live for the Will of God

2. Presence of the Glorious Spirit of God (1 Peter 4:14)

Reflection: Believers’ Suffering for Christ is the Norm, not the Exception

The Badge of Suffering Promises Future Glory, as well as Present Blessings: Sin keeps a Believer away from the Lord, but Suffering for Christ

brings the Presence of the Glorious Spirit of God into the Believer’s Life...

Key Terms: Theology of Suffering; Definition of Suffering; Believer’s Response to Suffering; Follow Christ’s Steps; Attitude toward Suffering; Present Blessings in Suffering Persecution