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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**1 Peter 4:12-19**  
**Lesson #19**  
**Suffering - four benefits**  
**12/13/2020**



## 1 Peter

*Operations Manual for Alien Ambassadors in a fallen world*

This is who we are "in Christ"

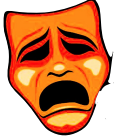
This is how we should express our identity

	Indicative	Imperative				
"chosen"	Salvation	Sanctification	In the church		Shepherding	
Introduction						Conclusion
"aliens"	Chosen	Privileged	Submission	Suffering		
		In the world				
	1:1-2	1:3-12	1:13-2:12	2:13-3:12	3:13-4:19	5:1-11
	Christians are called out of the world — and then sent back into the world.					

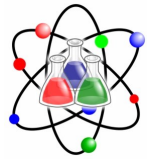
1

According to St. Augustine,  
if Christianity is to be intellectually  
convincing it must address two challenges:

## Suffering & Science



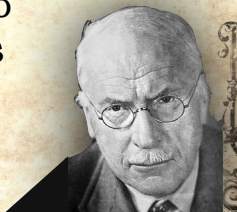
**is universal,  
unavoidable,  
undeniable, &  
unpredictable.**



**seeks to explain  
and manage the  
"material" world.**

2


"Through pride we are ever deceiving ourselves. But deep down below the surface of the average conscience a still, small voice says to us, '**Something is out of tune**'."



Carl Jung

3

"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."



C.S. Lewis

4

Suffering is a symptom of the problem and a sign of the solution.

Distribution of the material


Marx

Social revolution

Detachment from the material

Buddha

Spiritual enlightenment



Jesus

Redemption from sin

Sin, if denied, cannot be addressed.

Redemption comes from outside us.

5

**1 Peter 4:12-19 is addressing  
four common assumptions.**

**#1 Suffering is to be “avoided” at all costs.**

**#2 Our relationship with God is “transactional”  
- we are blessed or punished based on our  
trust and obedience.**

**#3 The Cross of Christ was “propitious” -  
satisfying the just demands of a holy  
God’s wrath against sin.**

**#4 Being chosen and special we should  
expect to be treated as such.**

6

*1 Peter 4*

“<sup>12</sup>Beloved, do not be **surprised** at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your **testing**, as though *something strange* were happening to you;”

**#1 Expand our understanding**

**We suffer because the whole creation  
is under God’s curse because of Adam’s sin.**

**Suffering can expand  
our perspective.**

7

*Genesis 3:17*

**“Cursed is the ground because of you;”**

*Romans 5:12*

**“Therefore, just as **through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin**, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned”**

**At the root of the human dilemma is  
Adam’s sin resulting in a divine curse  
not only on the human race  
and the whole creation.**

8

*Romans 1*

“<sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven **against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men**, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ...  
<sup>21</sup>For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, ...  
<sup>26</sup>For this reason God gave them over to **degrading passions**; ... exchanged the natural function for that which is **unnatural**,”

**Understanding the theological  
significance of homosexuality.**

**This is an unnatural condition that is a  
curse on all humanity but not born by all.**

*Exodus 11:5, 12:29*

The firstborn son (**if you had one**) would die.

9

*Romans 8*

“<sup>19</sup>For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup>For the creation **was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope** ...  
<sup>24</sup>For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.”

**The divine curse is removed by Christ  
as a living hope to be realized  
at his second coming.**

10

**“Propitiation”**

**fully satisfying  
the just demands of a holy God.**

*Romans 3*

“<sup>24</sup>being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; <sup>25</sup>whom God displayed publicly as a **propitiation** in His blood through faith.”



**Word & Way  
of the Cross.**

11



## The good news of the Gospel has to do with God's judgment.

1 Thessalonians 5:9

"For **God has not defined us for wrath**, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,"



Romans 8:1

"Therefore there is now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus."

John 5:24

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears my word, and believes Him who sent me, has eternal life, and **does not come into judgment**, but has passed out of death into life."

12

## Confusion

We understand that we live in a broken world but **are we not set free from God's judgment on it?**



If we are free from God's holy wrath against sin, **why are we being judged by God along with the world?**

13

"Satan's greatest challenge to the Christian faith is the seemingly senseless suffering of those who follow it."

C.S. Lewis



14

## So what?

- **Cool it.** Suffering is a test and opportunity to develop and or demonstrate character.
- **Homosexuality** is a sign to the human race, about the human race, (not the unique condemnation of the homosexual).

15

1 Peter 4

"13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on **rejoicing**, so that at the **revelation of His glory** you may also rejoice and be overjoyed. 14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are **blessed**, because the Spirit of glory, and of God, rests upon you."

**#2 Enhance** our union with Christ  
Even Christ suffered under the curse.

**Suffering can unite us with Christ.**

16

1 Peter 1

"6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by **various trials**, 7 that the **proof of your faith**, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ:"

**This is what makes aliens salty.**

A **Faith, Hope, and Love** that is not contingent on this life's blessings or tribulations.

17

**Moses and Paul both chose to share  
in the suffering with Messiah  
as well as the blessing that would follow.**

*Hebrews 11*

“24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; 25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin; 26 considering the reproach of Christ (Messiah) greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.”

18

## So what?

- **Embrace the “way of the cross” as a part of your calling.**
- **View your response to suffering as a testimony to your hope that awaited you in the next life.**

19

*1 Peter 4*

“15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; 16 but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, he is not to be **ashamed**, but is to glorify God in this name.”

**#3 Expose** *our sins*

**Not all suffering is honorable.**

**Suffering can expose  
& shame us in our sin.**

20

## So what?

- **Discipline yourself** lest your suffering come from your personal sins apart from Adam’s.

21

*1 Peter 4*

“17 For *it is* time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what *will be* the outcome for those who do not **obey the gospel of God**? 18 And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner? 19 Therefore, those also who **suffer according to the will of God** are to entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.”

**#4 Exonerate** *our Gospel hope*

**Those who obey the Gospel have hope  
and those who do not, do not.**

**Suffering can lead to confirming  
our hope in the Gospel.**

22

## So what?

- **Find peace** in knowing that your suffering is not outside God’s will.
- **Be thankful** for the inexhaustible grace of God in Christ.
- **Share the Gospel** of hope with those who have no hope beyond this life.

23



# Suffering can



- #1 expand our vision.***
- #2 enhance our union.***
- #3 expose our sin.***
- #4 exonerate our hope.***

24



***Lord remind us  
this week that:***



- trials are a test of our faith.***
- the way of the cross is suffering.***
- there is shame in suffering but  
only as we bring it on by our sin.***
- the Gospel's hope gives us  
peace and courage.***

25