

**THE GRACE OF SUFFERING**  
**1 Peter 2:18-25**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Believers are called to endure unjust suffering by following Christ's example of non-retaliation and trusting in God. Regardless of the adversity and calamity you are going through, remind yourself that God will never leave you or abandon you (Heb 13:5). **God is Still in Control!**

- In Job 13:15, Job declared, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him"

In this message, we will review four (4) features of The Grace of Suffering:

- I. **THE COMMAND OF SUBMISSION** (v. 18)
  - A. "Servants" refers to the millions and millions of household slaves in the Greco-Roman world during the days of Paul.
  - B. Servants of Today (Exod 20:12; Rom 13:1-2).
  - C. Servants are to promote good and punish wrongdoings (Acts 5:29).
  
- II. **THE COMMENDATION OF GOD** (vv. 19-20)
  - A. To patiently endure unjust suffering for the sake of conscience toward God is "Thankworthy" (v. 19).
  - B. Suffering for your own Faults (v. 20a)
  - C. The Believer is to Submit to his Employer as it Pleases God.
  
- III. **THE CHRIST-LIKE EXAMPLE** (vv. 21-23)
  - A. Believers are Called to Suffer for Christ even as Christ Suffered for Us (v. 21a).
  - B. The Suffering of Christ (vv. 22-23; Eph 5:2; Matt 27:26-32)
  
- IV. **THE PURPOSE OF THE CROSS** (vv. 24-25)
  - A. Christ Died a Substitutionary Death (v. 24a; Isa 53:5)
  - B. Christ Suffered for Sin (v. 24b; Rom 5:1)
  - C. Salvation – Return to Jesus (v. 25; Isa 53:6; John 10:11)

**CONCLUSION:**

- A. Christ suffered and died for us. Therefore, we should be willing to suffer for Him (1 Pet 3:18).
  
- B. Enduring unfair and unjust suffering for doing right is "Thankworthy" (Deserving of Praise) and is acceptable to God.
  
- C. Suffering for wrongdoing is the persons own fault and is not acceptable to God.
  
- D. Suffering teaches us patience.

From the Preaching Ministry of:  
Pastor Carl Bennett  
Corinth Christian Fellowship  
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"... the word of our God shall stand for ever" (Isa 40:8).