

## UNDESERVED SUFFERING – 4 (1 Peter)

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1. The wife who continues to follow the mandates of the Lord even during times of undeserved suffering (e.g., uncaring husband) has nothing to fear because God will lead and protect her.

**1 Peter 3:6** Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children *if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.*

2. In undeserved suffering the believer must avoid carnality and continue to live his life as unto the Lord. This is what produces divine good.

**1 Peter 3:11** "And let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it.

3. The believer in undeserved suffering is exhorted to pray to the Lord and take confidence in fact that God is well aware of the situation and will take care of it. He will answer the prayer if you turn to Him for protection.

**1 Peter 3:12** "For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, And His ears attend to their prayer, But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

**1 Peter 3:13** And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?

4. When the believer stays in fellowship with God and handles the problem through His Word, he will not only be protected by God, he will be blessed by God. Note how the Lord repeatedly exhorts the believer not to live in fear.

**1 Peter 3:14** But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, *you are* blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled.

5. Undeserved suffering provides an opportunity for the believer to witness concerning the reality and power of God.

**1 Peter 3:15** but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

6. In undeserved suffering the believer is exhorted to reflect on the undeserved suffering of Christ. This has a way of keeping the believer from becoming self-righteous about the injustice he experiences. The issue must be the will of God, not our wills!

**1 Peter 4:1** Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,<sup>2</sup> so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

7. Every believer must be aware that there is always the temptation during undeserved suffering to parlay undeserved suffering to deserved suffering. Handling undeserved suffering according to the will of God brings blessing. If the believer decides to take matters into his own hands, then he sets himself up for deserved suffering.

**1 Peter 4:15** By no means let any of you suffer as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;<sup>16</sup> but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.

In Him,

*Pastor Don*