



1 Peter 3:13-17 | Redeeming Suffering: Why Suffering is Never for Nothing

1. Welcome \_\_\_\_\_ (13-14)

2. Let \_\_\_\_\_ (15)

3. Endure \_\_\_\_\_ (16-17)

## Scripture Memory

*“but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,”*

–1 Peter 3:15

## Application Questions

*Community Groups meet throughout the week and play a crucial role in our response to the preaching of the word. These groups gather to discuss the following questions as we seek to apply the sermon in community with one another. Please visit [compassntx.org](http://compassntx.org) to join a small group near you.*

1. Read **1 Peter 3:13–14**. When you have suffered as a Christian, how has being zealous for what is good helped you suffer well? How is your experience of suffering different when your faith is strong and active compared to when it is weak or distracted?

2. Read **1 Peter 3:15**. Have you ever had an unbeliever ask you why you have hope in the midst of suffering? How should our testimony before a watching world shape the way we suffer as Christians (see also **Matthew 5:11–16**; **Philippians 1:27–30**)? What practices might help create evangelistic opportunities, and what attitudes or behaviors should we avoid that could harm our testimony?

3. Read **1 Peter 3:15** and **2 Corinthians 1:3-7**. Sometimes Christians can be tempted to suffer quietly, not wanting to be a burden to others, or thinking our suffering doesn't measure up to what others are going through. While this verse is specifically addressing how unbelievers react to our suffering, how can our vulnerability and transparency about suffering encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ as they see how we endure it?

4. Read **1 Peter 3:16-17**; **2 Thessalonians 1:6-8**; and **Revelation 6:9-11**. Scripture often points to God's future vengeance and righteous judgment as a source of comfort and vindication for suffering believers. How does this emphasis make you feel? What will be different about the vindication we will experience then—when Christ returns and judges justly—compared to the kind of vindication we often desire right now?

## Recommended Reading

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- *Suffering is Never for Nothing* - Elisabeth Elliot
- *How Long, O Lord?* - D.A. Carson
- *The Lord of Endurance and Encouragement* - Joel Beeke and Paul Smalley