



"Our Greatest Need in Life and Death"

1 Peter 2:18-25
September 28, 2025

The Big Idea: Suffering and pain are a part of every life. The hardest of all is "**undeserved** suffering." In a moment of deep and difficult to accept truth, Peter says we are actually called by God to **endure** suffering. Peter then presents Jesus to us as our **Savior**, **Example**, and **Shepherd**.

1 Peter 2:18-25(ESV)

2 ¹⁸ **Servants**, **be subject** to your masters **with all respect**, not only to the **good and gentle** but also to the **unjust**.

¹⁹ For this is **a gracious thing**, when, **mindful of God**, one **endures sorrows while suffering unjustly**.

²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when **you do good** and suffer for it you **endure**, **this is a gracious thing** in the sight of God.

²¹ For **to this you have been called**,

"Servants" → Peter, here uses a different word than word typically used in the Bible. Here it is "**household** servant".

"be subject" → submit; **humbly** comply

"unjust" (skolios) → **crooked**; unfair

"gracious thing" → literally, "this is **grace**"

- It **demonstrates** to the world what the grace of God is all about.
- And it means that we **experience** the grace of God in a powerful way.

"sorrows" → **heaviness**, pain, suffering

Peter gives us 2 qualifiers:

1. It must be **unjust** or undeserved suffering.
2. We must be **God-focused** in order to resemble & experience His grace.

"do good" → the right thing; or, for the benefit of another

"you have been called" → to call your name [v. 21]

"endure" → to **remain** (stay in the suffering instead of running away); to calmly take the suffering

because Christ also
suffered for you, leaving you an **example**, so that **you might follow in his steps**.

²² He committed **no sin**, neither was **deceit** found in his mouth.

²³ When he was reviled, he **did not revile in return**; when he suffered, he **did not threaten**, but continued **entrusting himself to him who judges justly**.

²⁴ He himself **bore our sins** in his body **on the tree**, that we might **die to sin** and **live to righteousness**.

²⁵ For you **were straying like sheep**, but **have now returned** to the **Shepherd** and **Overseer of your souls**.

WHO IS JESUS?

1. Jesus is Your **Example**

"Christ also suffered" → Jesus proved that a person could be in the **will** of God, be greatly **blessed** by God, and still suffer unjustly.

At first, Peter opposed Christ's suffering on the cross (Matt. 16:21ff); but then he learned that we lead by serving and serve by suffering. He also learned that this kind of suffering always leads to **glory**!

- "example" → a writing **pattern** or **template**; the alphabet guide
- "follow in his steps" means "follow **closely on** his steps"

2. Jesus **Bore Your Sin**

- There was a high purpose for Christ's suffering that went far beyond being an example for us. [Leviticus 16:20-22]
- Jesus' salvation frees us from having to be **responsive** to sin.
- Jesus' salvation empowers us to live **righteously**.

3. Jesus is Your **Shepherd and Overseer**

- Peter draws from Isaiah 53
- Sheep will never survive without a Shepherd
- Psalm 23 is not automatically our experience. David's description is what we experience when we learn to listen to and "follow on His steps" [v. 21]

When we were lost, we needed a Savior, not an example.
Now that we are saved, we need an example -- Someone to show us how to live and how to endure unjust suffering.
