

UNDESERVED SUFFERING (in 1 Peter) – 5

1. Christians may undergo unjust as well as just suffering when God decides to judge a nation. God's judgment on a nation often begins with His own people,

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?

2. In undeserved suffering the issue is committing your cause to God. God is always fair and absolute just. However, a word of caution: If you commit your case to the Lord and ask Him to vindicate it between you and someone else, you better make sure you are in the right. Again, the issue in unjust suffering is handing the problem over to the Lord.

1 Peter 4:19 Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

3. Unjust suffering provides opportunity for the believer to develop the virtue of genuine humility which is required for promotion in the plan of God.

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

4. Satan and the angelic conflict is often a source of undeserved suffering.

1 Peter 5:8 Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

5. There are four special blessings available for the believer in undeserved suffering.

1 Peter 5:10 And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you.

#1: God will “perfect” [mature] you. Undeserved suffering handled through fellowship and Bible doctrine will deal with your flaws and blind spots. It is when everything is going *great* that we tend to ignore our problem areas.

#2: God will “confirm” you. The idea here is to further establish you in the verities of God. In unjust suffering you have the opportunity to grow in your *epignosis* faith.

#3: God will “strengthen” you. You will become a much stronger person through the process of unjust suffering if you handle it according to the will of God.

#4: God will “establish” you. Your foundations will become much more established through unjust suffering by using the Word of God.

6. With the blessings of these virtues established in the life of believers, we should not be surprised when we face suffering and temptations.

1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

In Him,

Pastor Don