

Suffer Right not Wrong!

One thing the Bible teaches is that suffering because of sin is inevitable! Jesus suffered because of sin in order to bring salvation to sinners!

God allows suffering for two basic reasons. He allows the righteous to suffer at the hands of sinners to provide sinners with an opportunity to repent and enjoy the privileges of God's love for His creation. And He allows sinners to suffer because of sin.

Both of these types of suffering have a singular purpose. God allows His own children to suffer to give the lost an opportunity to be saved, and He punishes sinners to discourage their practice of sinning.

This second type of suffering is numerated in 1 Peter 4:15 as follows, "*Let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or a meddler.*"

There are four words to describe sinners here. They are interesting and very descriptive words. Look with me at what they mean...

Murderer – a person who hates others and is willing to take for himself what others have—even their life.

Thief – the word in the Greek for this sinner comes from the root work "*klepto.*" We get our word "*kleptomaniac*" from this. Another sinner who does not value what belongs to someone else and will take it.

Evildoer – this is a person who practices evil. Again a person who loves self above others.

Meddler – this is an interesting word in the Greek. The word is "*allotrepiskopos*" which is a compound word of "*allogri*" = things belonging to others combined with "*episkopos*" = which is our word for a bishop or overseer. So this person is one who manipulates someone else for his own benefit. This is manipulator of others for personal gain.

Sinners suffer because God is trying to convert them to love others as much as they love themselves.

On the other hand Christians suffer at the hands of these sinners to bless them and save them from themselves.

If we are going to suffer I think it is fairly easy to see which suffering is noble! The one which serves God! I want to be on God's side. Don't you?

...Milt