

1. Definition

- *Pascho* (to suffer) & *pathema* (suffering): Its basic meaning in the Greek world is “to _____ something”. Generally, it means “having to suffer misfortune, blows of fate, the disfavor of men or gods ...it is the term at hand when the Greek or Hellenistic world wants to express or discuss the _____ of _____” (TDNT 5:905).

2. The Theological Context of Suffering in 1 Peter

Introduction

- Scripture presents human suffering as being entirely _____ with the justice, holiness, omnipotence and _____ of God.
- The Bible provides a very clear and direct answer to the problem of human suffering and it does so by the 3rd chapter in Genesis. Human suffering is God’s _____ for sin. Suffering is universal because _____ is universal.
- The real problem related to suffering in Scripture is the problem of _____ suffering. If suffering is the consequence of sin, why do the _____ suffer?

Why do the Righteous Suffer?

- Who are the righteous? The righteous are those who are in a right _____ with God.
 - Book of Job
 - Psalm 73

Summary

- The OT presents suffering as universal. We cannot escape suffering. We have no real _____ over how we suffer. We might suffer from war, illness, natural disaster, bad relationships, etc.... We do have a _____ about one thing: whether we suffer as being _____ or as being _____.
- Peter is not concerned to distinguish between one type of suffering or another (i.e. sickness vs. persecution), but rather he distinguishes between the suffering that comes to us as a _____ of our own sin and the suffering that comes to us because we are identified with Jesus Christ and lead _____ lives.

Notes

3. The Historical Context of Suffering in 1 Peter

Who are the Recipients?

- Are the recipients Jewish, Gentile, or Jewish-Gentile?
 - Some have argued for a Jewish audience based on the _____ from the OT.
 - Others have argued for a Gentile audience based on references to their _____. (1:18; 2:9-10; 4:3)
- It is most likely that the congregations of these regions were mostly _____ with perhaps a _____ element.

What are They Suffering?

- They are experiencing the onslaught of _____ against the soul. (1:11)
- They are being _____ (1:12, 15; 3:9, 16; 4:4, 14)
- Some are being _____ abused (2:20)
- Some are living with relational _____ (3:1)
- There is the temptation to _____ (3:6, 14; 5:6)
- They are experiencing the _____ attack (5:8)

Why are They Being Slandered?

Cultural Reasons

- Church and State _____ Instead of _____
- _____ Instead of _____
- _____ Instead of _____

Historical Reasons

- When Christianity first spread throughout the Roman Empire, churches were considered to be an _____ of the Jewish synagogues. Christians were lumped together with Jews and largely _____.
- A shift occurred in the late 50s and early 60's. Christianity was increasingly singled out as a _____ movement. This drew more attention both from the general _____ as well as government officials.

Notes

Question for next week

The word "salvation" is used 3 times in 1 Peter 1:1-12. How does Peter use this word? How is this different from the way we normally use it?