



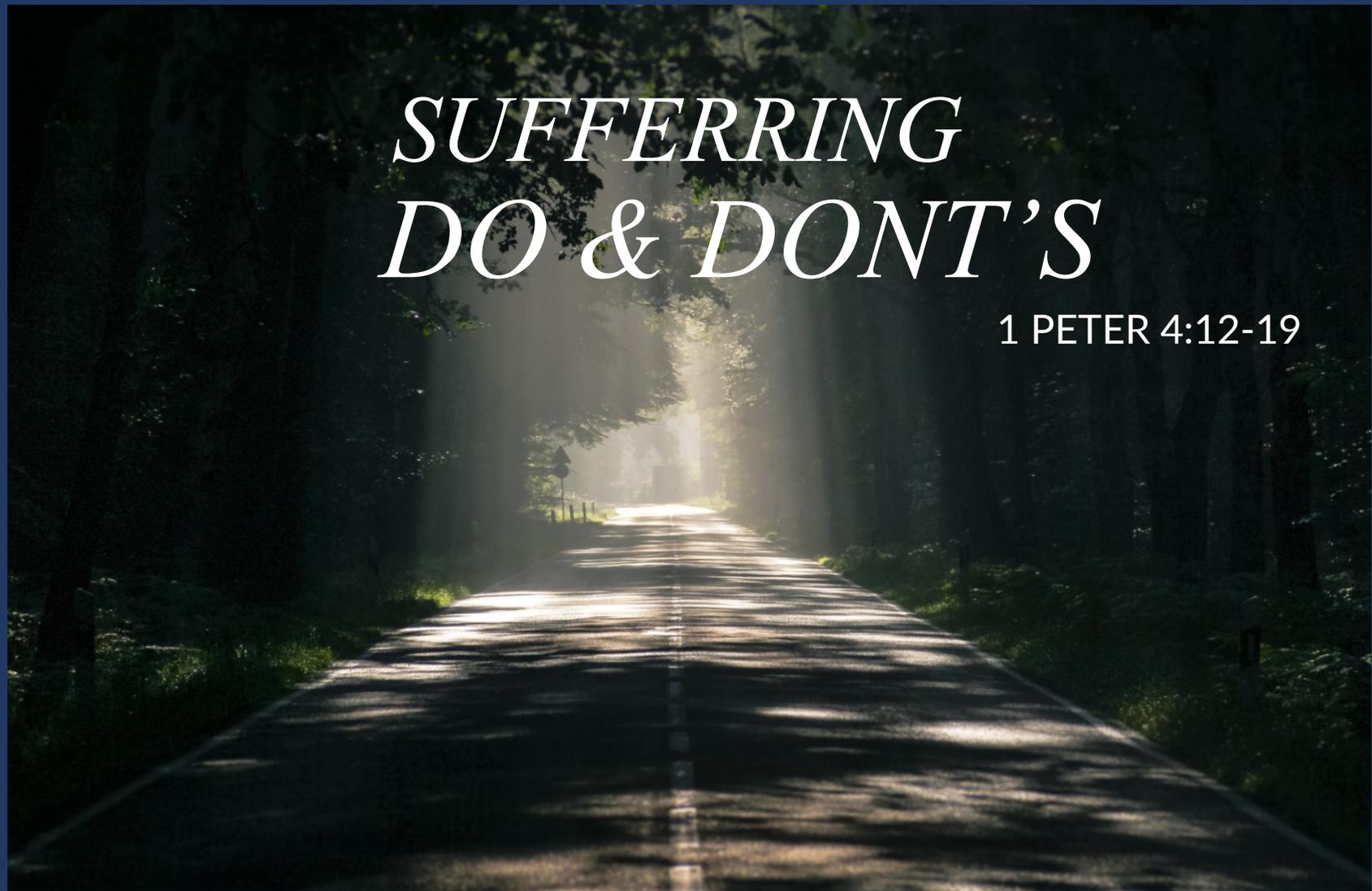
SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG
METHODIST CHURCH



SERMON

SUFFERRING DO & DONT'S

1 PETER 4:12-19



REV DR NG SWEE MING

7 November 2021



sufferings – dos & don'ts 7th nov 2021 ps ng



TRILEMMA CONUNDRUM

sickness, pain & suffering

rom 8:28

sunday

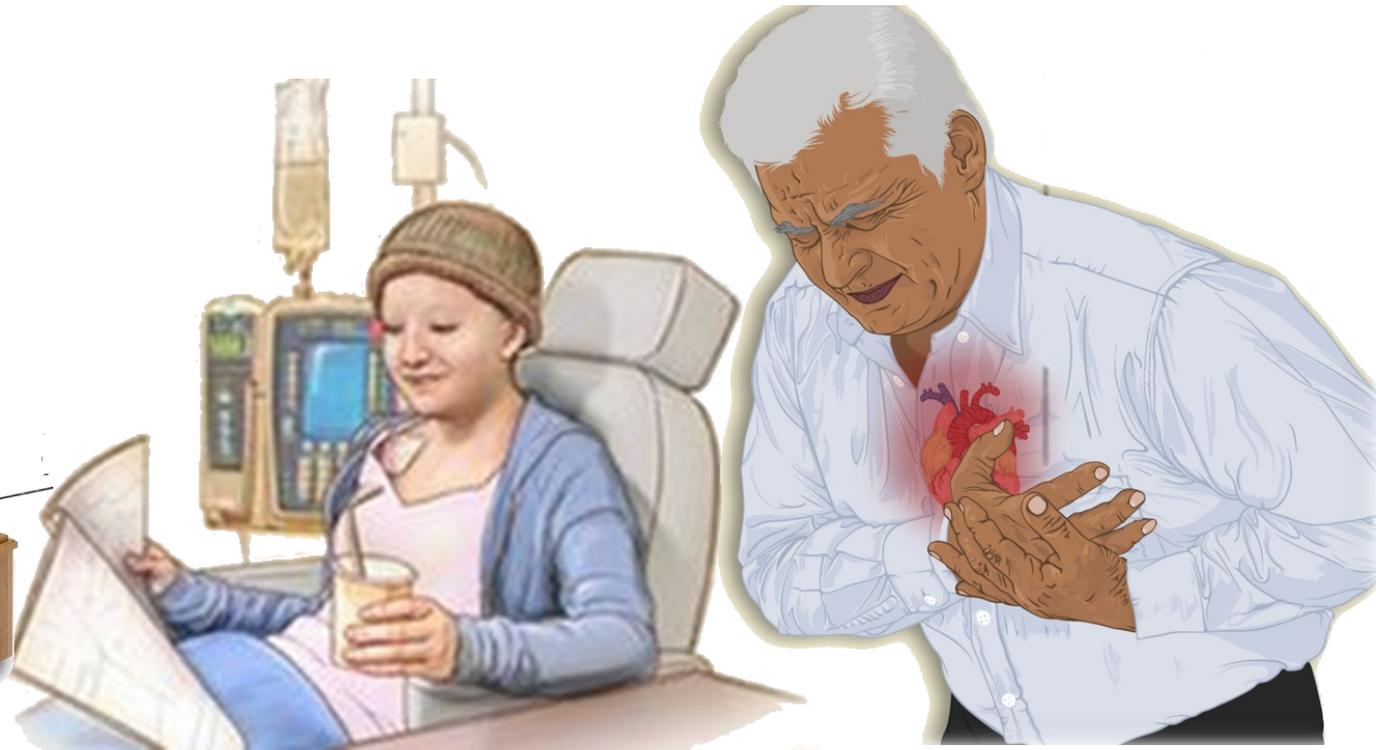
22nd nov 2020

Suffering – Dos & Don'ts

1 Peter 4:12-19



7th nov 2021 ps ng



SUFFERING – Dos & Don'ts

v12

NIV: Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.

ESV: Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

SUFFERING – Dos & Don'ts

SUFFER, SUFFERED, SUFFERING

- At least 14 times in 1 Peter ...
- Context - persecution & physical suffering...

↳ Year AD 64

↳ Emperor Nero

- Preparing his flock for what is coming
happening ...

For Today's sharing

↳ Broader definition of suffering

SUFFERING – Dos & Don'ts

V¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised

1. DON'T BE SURPRISED

In a perfect world ...

OR in 'our' perfect world –



1. DON'T BE SURPRISED

George Barna Survey :

**"If you could ask God one question
(and you knew that he would give you an answer)
what question would you ask God?"**

No. 1 Answer :

**"WHY IS THERE SO MUCH PAIN ?"
SO MUCH SUFFERING?"**



SUFFERING – Dos & Don'ts

V¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised

1. DON'T BE SURPRISED

In a perfect world ...

OR in 'our' perfect world –

↪ There should be No Pain, Suffering, Sickness, Sorrow

No Death

That incidentally was God's Original Plan UNTIL

Rest Assured – that is still God's Ultimate Plan

1. DON'T BE SURPRISED

Suffering & Pain is the direct result of Man's Fall into SIN ...

As a result – Suffering & Pain is part of Life

Peter reminded his flock

“Beloved, do not be surprised ...”

Historical context :

1 Peter written sometime between AD 60 to 64

Before this there was persecution of the early church

But on 18th July AD64 For 6 days and night

then another 3 days ...

1. DON'T BE SURPRISED



Emperor Nero

Start of 200+ years of Persecution

↳ **Paul was martyred ...**

↳ **Shortly Peter also martyred ...**

“Beloved, do not be surprised AT

(NIV) THE PAINFUL TRIALS

(ESV) THE FIERY TRIAL ...”



1. DON'T BE
SURPRISED

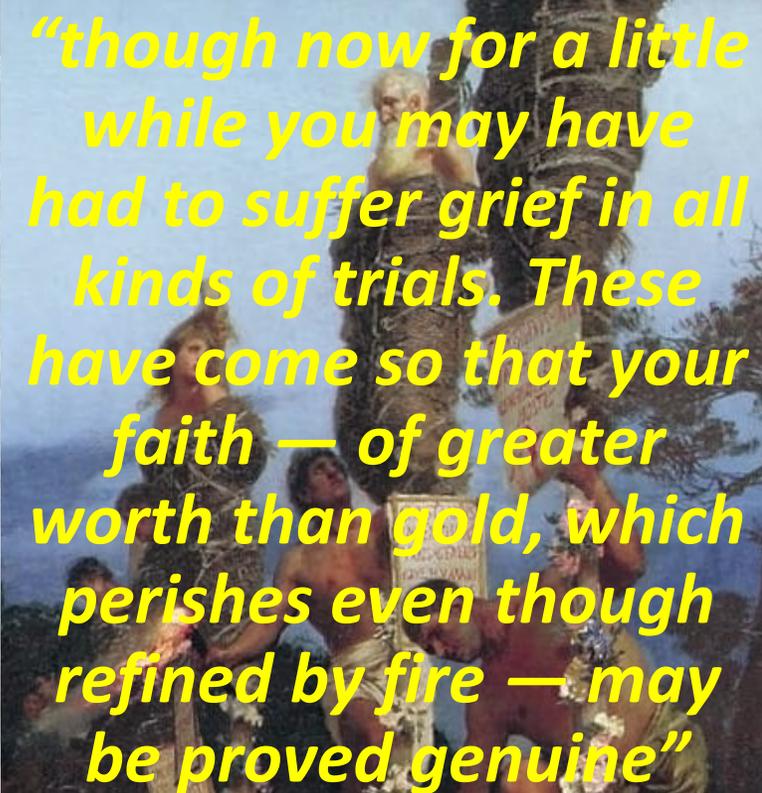
v12 “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial WHEN...”

➤ **WHEN , not IF ...**

v12 “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you TO TEST YOU ...”

➤ **Suffering & Pain is to be a TEST of our Faith ...**

Ref 1 Peter 1:6-7



“though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may be proved genuine”

QUOTE : Faith that is not tested, cannot be trusted.

1. DON'T BE SURPRISED

- ✓ Peter taught it ...
- ✓ Jesus as well - *John 15:20 Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.*
- ✓ Paul also : *Phil 1:29 'not only to believe in Him but...'*
Phil 3:10 'the fellowship of sharing ...'
2 Tim 3:12 'everyone who wants to live...'

1. DON'T BE SURPRISED

Philip Yancey was asked...



*Question : Why are
Atheist never invited to
give such talks ?*



STATE POLICE lead children from Sandy Hook Elementary School after the shooting. Students had huddled in closets and corners as the carnage unfolded.

'Evil visited this community'

Connecticut gunman kills 20 children, 6

STATES LEAVING NEWTOWN MARKETS TO FEDS

BY NOAM N. LEVEY
WASHINGTON —

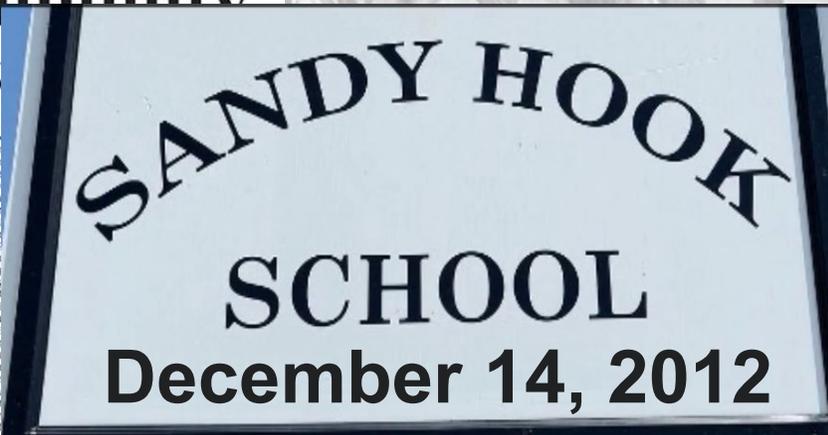
BY RICHARD A. SERRANO, ALANA SEMUELS AND TINA SUBMAN
NEWTOWN, Conn. — A gunman massacred 20 children and six adults at a suburban elementary school here Friday morning before killing himself in what appeared to be the second-deadliest school shooting in U.S. history, authorities said.
Sources said Adam Lanza, 20, earlier killed his mother at home and then drove her Honda to Sandy Hook Elementary School equipped with firearms that were registered to one of both of his divorced parents.
Clad in military fatigues and carrying two semiautomatic pistols, he entered the school armed with some-



PEOPLE GRIEVE outside a fire station where some students were taken after the violence.

Investigators try to piece together a profile of the man who opened fire on staff, students. EXTRA

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SHOOTING 2012



1. DON'T BE SURPRISED



*"Well, the universe is random.
Bad things just happens.
Better get used to it.
Your children don't live anymore.
That's just what happens."*

Los Angeles Times

TURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2012

latimes.com

Los Angeles Times

losangeles.com

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2014

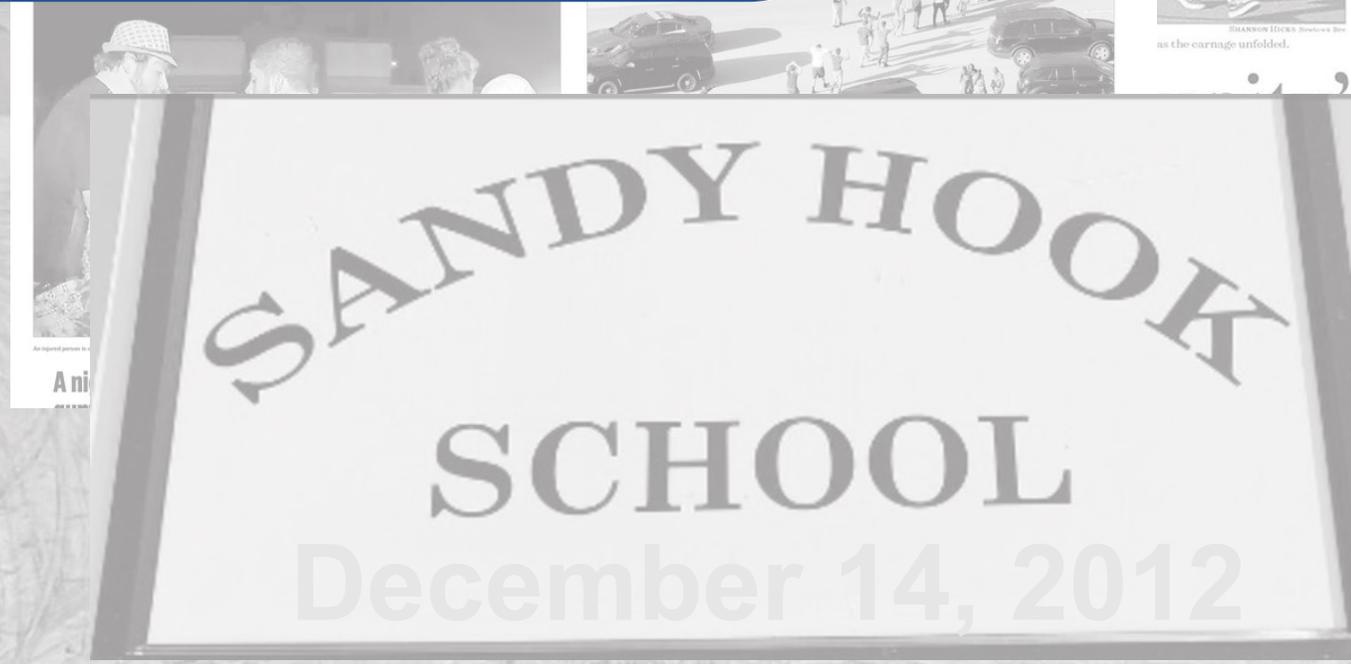
TOLL: 17

17 with a rifle, gas mask, and a handgun is arrested.

Fearful students hide inside classrooms, quietly texting their anxious parents.



SHARON HICKS/Redux for Los Angeles Times as the carnage unfolded.



1. DON'T BE SURPRISED



*"Well, the universe is random.
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Your children don't live anymore.
That's just what happens."*

Los Angeles Times
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2012
latimes.com

Bay Times
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2014
bay.com

TOLL: 17

with a rifle, gas mask
is arrested.

Fearful students hide inside
classrooms, quietly texting their
anxious parents.



SHANNON DICKS/Redux for
as the carnage unfolded.

Philip Yancey : "What happened was tragic. Should not have happened. We should be angry at that kind of evil. However, we believe there is a good God who will make all things work together for your good if you trust him. And there's hope in that..."

December 14, 2012

SUFFERING – Dos & Don'ts

v¹³ BUT REJOICE that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

How can we REJOICE in the midst of suffering ??

We can only REJOICE

when we know WHY ...

when we know FOR WHOM ...

➤ With CHRIST

➤ For CHRIST

2. DON'T BE SCARED but rejoice ...

2. DON'T BE SCARED but rejoice

How can we REJOICE in the midst of suffering ??

Because in Our suffering we ...

a. FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST v13

↪ *Phil 3:10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,*

↪ *Phil 1:29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him,*

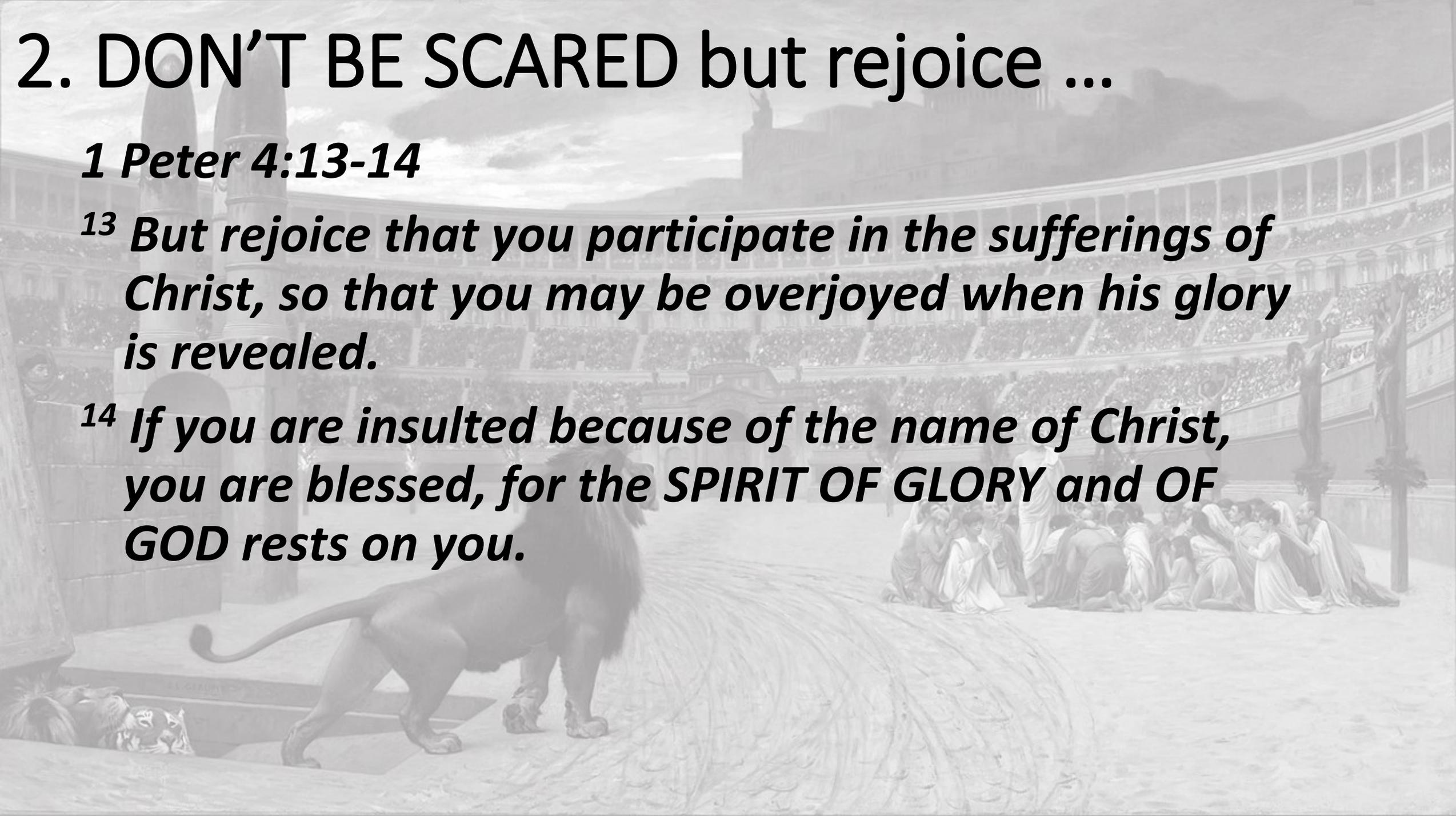
v¹³ BUT REJOICE that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

2. DON'T BE SCARED but rejoice ...

1 Peter 4:13-14

13 But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the SPIRIT OF GLORY and OF GOD rests on you.



2. DON'T BE SCARED

but rejoice

How can we REJOICE in the midst of suffering ??

Because in Our suffering we ...

a. Fellowship with Christ v13 - Ref Phil 1:29; 3:10

b. **Glorify Holy Spirit v14**

↳ ***Luke 12:11-12 "When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."***

↳ ***Acts 6:10 but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke.***

2. DON'T BE SCARED

How can we REJOICE in the midst of suffering ??

but rejoice

Because in Our suffering we ...

- a. Fellowship with Christ v13 - Ref Phil 1:29; 3:10
- b. Glorify Holy Spirit v14 - Ref Luke 12:11-12; Acts 6:10
- c. **GLORIFY GOD THE FATHER v14**

↪ *1 Peter 2:12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and GLORIFY GOD on the day he visits us.*

↪ *Matt 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and PRAISE YOUR FATHER in heaven.*

2. DON'T BE SCARED but rejoice

v¹³ BUT REJOICE that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed WHEN HIS GLORY IS REVEALED.

There is a Special Relationship between SUFFERING & GLORY

↪ **Jesus said it : Luke 24:26 *“Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?”***

↪ **Paul declared it : Rom 8:17-18 *Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, IF INDEED WE SHARE IN HIS SUFFERINGS IN ORDER THAT WE MAY ALSO SHARE IN HIS GLORY. I consider that our present SUFFERINGS are not worth comparing with the GLORY that will be revealed in us.***

2. DON'T BE SCARED but rejoice

*"Why do
Christians
suffer?"*

**"Why not?
They're the
only ones who
can take it."**



C S Lewis

2. DON'T BE SCARED but rejoice

Problem of Suffering & Pain

Q: Why does a good, loving all powerful God still allow suffering & pain in the world ?

EITHER He is not all good & loving ...

OR He is not All Powerful

- Problem of "THEODICY"
- Problem of Suffering & Pain
 - ↪ cannot be resolved in this world ...
 - ↪ only in the NEXT ...

THEODICY means vindication of God. It is to answer the question of why a good God permits the manifestation of evil.

2. DON'T BE SCARED but rejoice

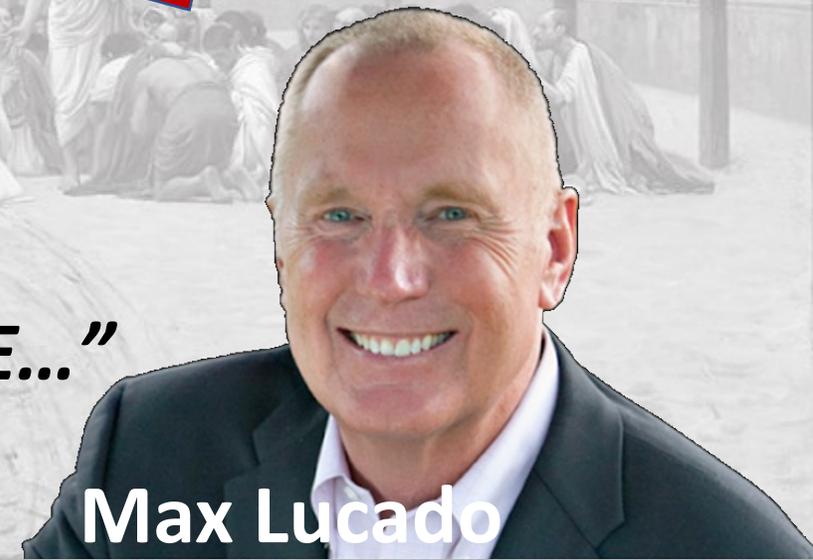
"A SEASON OF SUFFERING" is a small assignment when compared to the reward. Rather than begrudge your problem, explore it. Ponder it. And most of all, use it. Use it to the glory of God."

A Season Not a lifetime

Peter would have agreed ...

1:6 "though now for A LITTLE WHILE you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials...."

5:10 "...after you have suffered A LITTLE WHILE..."



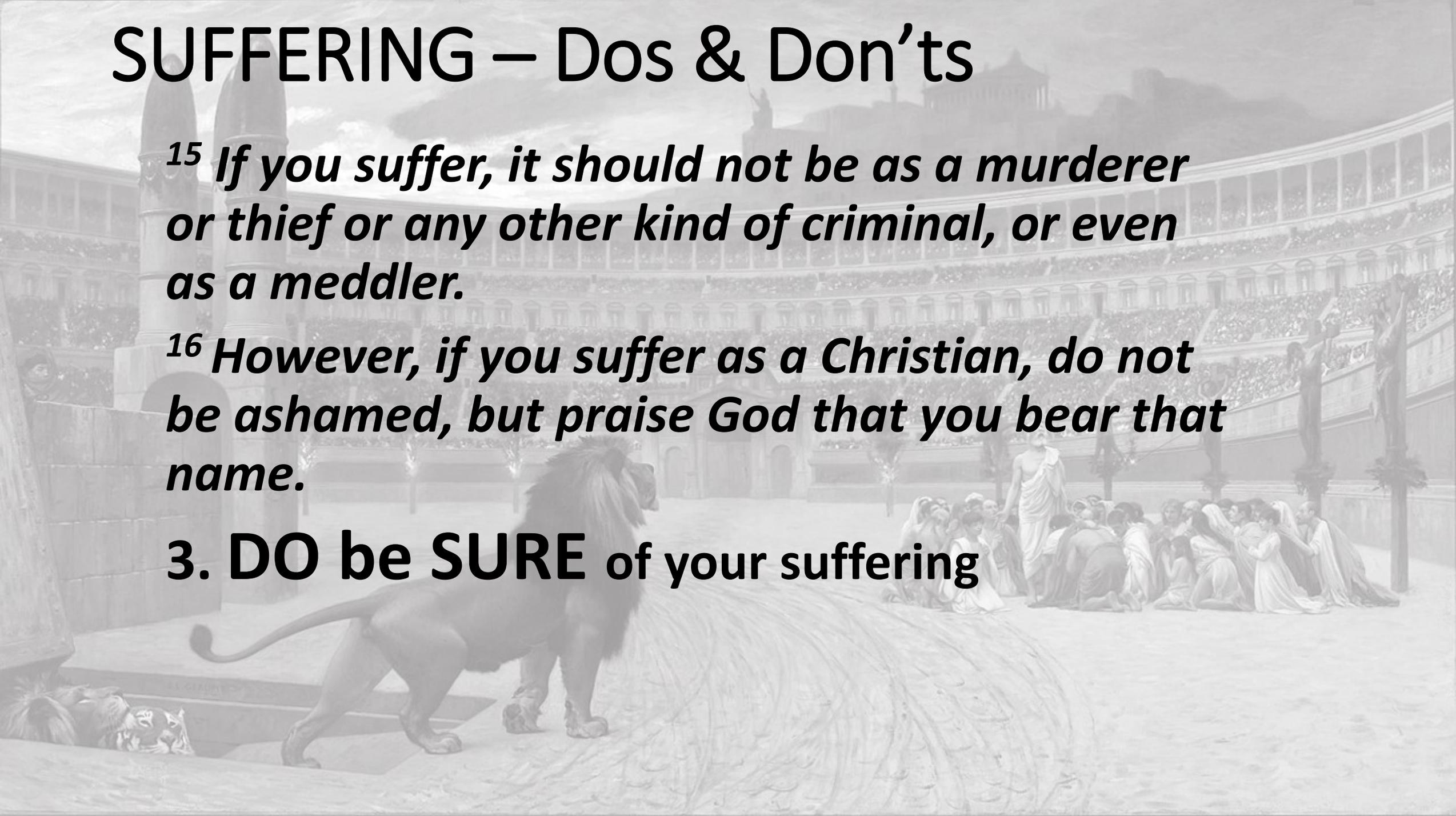
Max Lucado

SUFFERING – Dos & Don'ts

15 If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.

16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

3. DO be SURE of your suffering



3. DO be SURE of your suffering

Suffer for the RIGHT REASON

Suffer for the RIGHT CAUSE / NAME

1 Peter 2:19-20 For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

1 Peter 3:17 It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

3. DO be SURE of your suffering

17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

18 And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

Even as Christians ... with or without suffering

↪ **There will be a Judgment ...**

↪ **a Judgment of REWARDS**

↪ **Unbelievers may or may not suffer here ...**

↪ **But will definitely suffer in the life to come ...**

↪ **And the suffering will be immeasurably worse ...**

SUFFERING – Dos & Don'ts

1 Peter 4:19 *So then, those WHO SUFFER ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL should commit themselves to their faithful creator and continue to do good....*

**Yet some Pastors teach Christians will not suffer ...
should not even be sick
will not be poor ...**

Not in this Bible

4. DO be SETTLED in your Suffering

↳ that we suffer 'according to God's permissive will'...

4. DO be SETTLED in your Suffering

1 Peter 4:19 *So then, those who suffer according to God's will should COMMIT themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.*

What then should we do ?

↳ '...commit themselves to their faithful Creator...'

COMMIT – is an accounting term

'making a DEPOSIT'

God Knows & Sees us in our SUFFERINGS

↳ **When you suffer ...**

↳ **You are making a Deposit/Credit into your Heavenly Account**

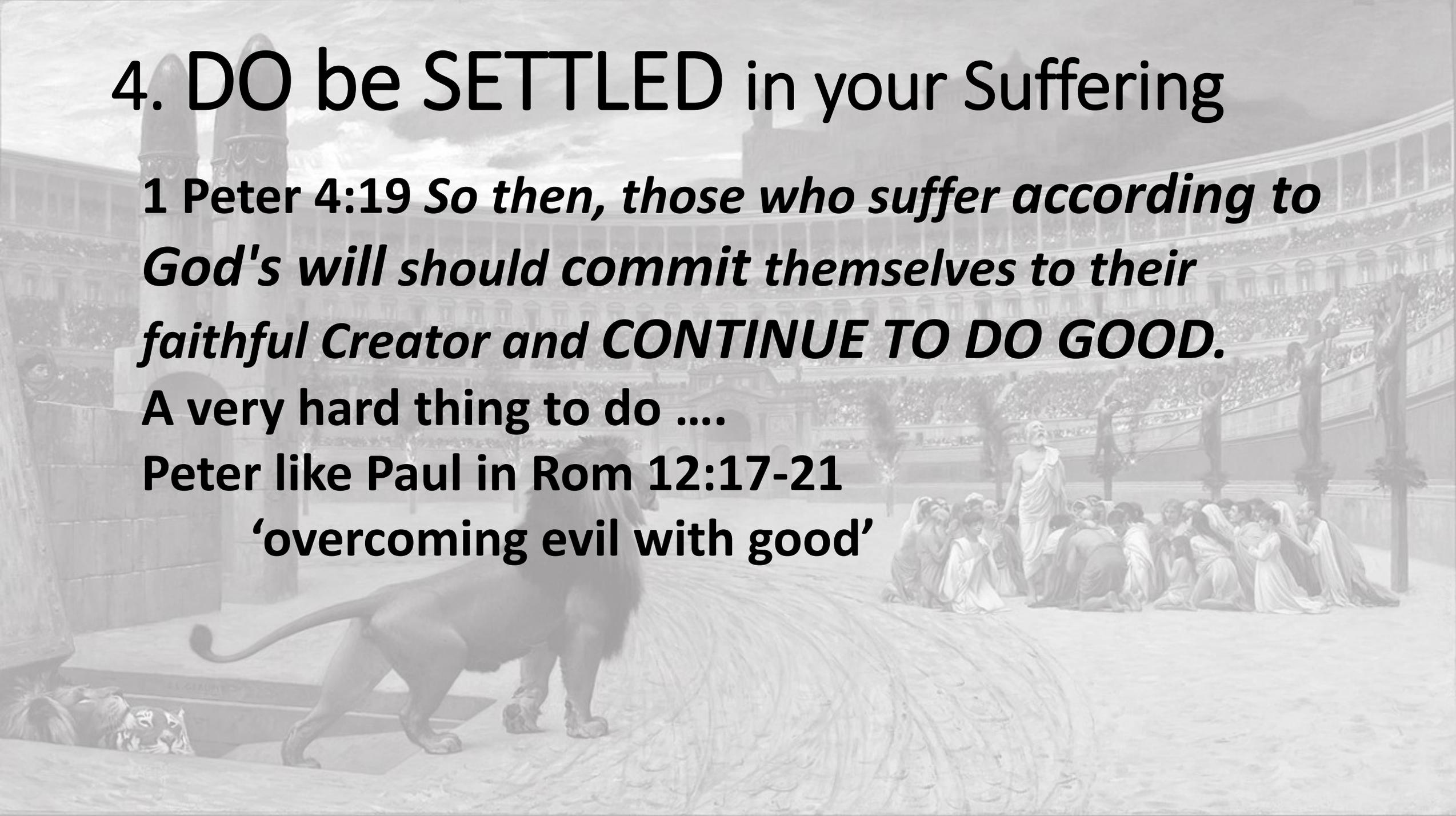
4. DO be SETTLED in your Suffering

1 Peter 4:19 *So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and **CONTINUE TO DO GOOD.***

A very hard thing to do

Peter like Paul in Rom 12:17-21

'overcoming evil with good'



SUFFERING – Dos & Don'ts

CONCLUSION

- Don't be SURPRISED – v12
- Don't be SCARED – v13-14
- Do be SURE – v15-18
- Do be SETTLED – v19

*Heb 5:8 Although He was a son,
He learned obedience from
what He suffered...*

TRILEMMA CONUNDRUM Conclusion:

Remember:

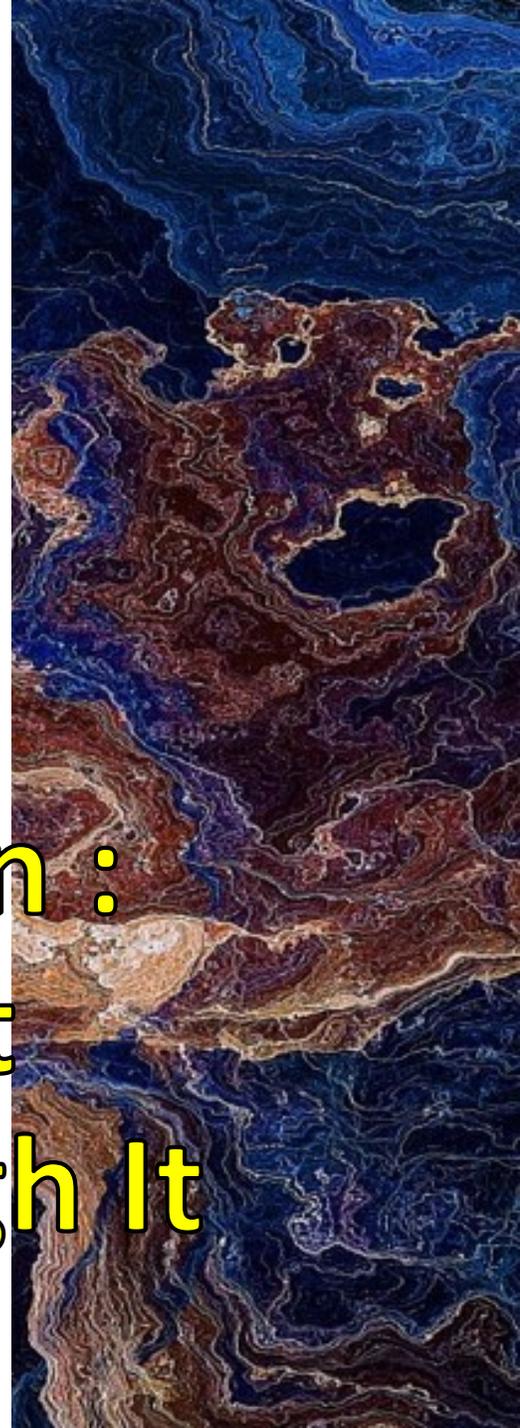
1. God Did Not Create It
2. God Allowed It
3. God Uses It

Consideration:

- A. It's Inevitable
- B. It's Finite
- C. It's Defining

Application :

- i. From It
- ii. Through It
- iii. By It



American entrepreneur,
Television producer,
Media proprietor, and
Philanthropist.



Ted Turner

The Impact of a Heart Attack

“Well, how did you like your heart attack?”

“Would you do it again?”

“Would you recommend it?”

“Does your life mean more to you now than it did before.”

“You and Nell have always had a beautiful marriage, but are you closer now than ever?”

“How about that new granddaughter?”

““Do you have a new compassion for people—a deeper understanding and sympathy?”

“Do you know the Lord in a deeper, richer fellowship than you had ever realized could be possible?”

“...how'd you like your heart attack?”

“It scared me to death, almost.”

“No!”

“Definitely Not.”

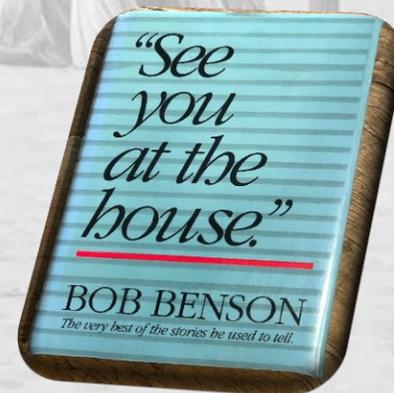
“Well, yes.”

“Yes.”

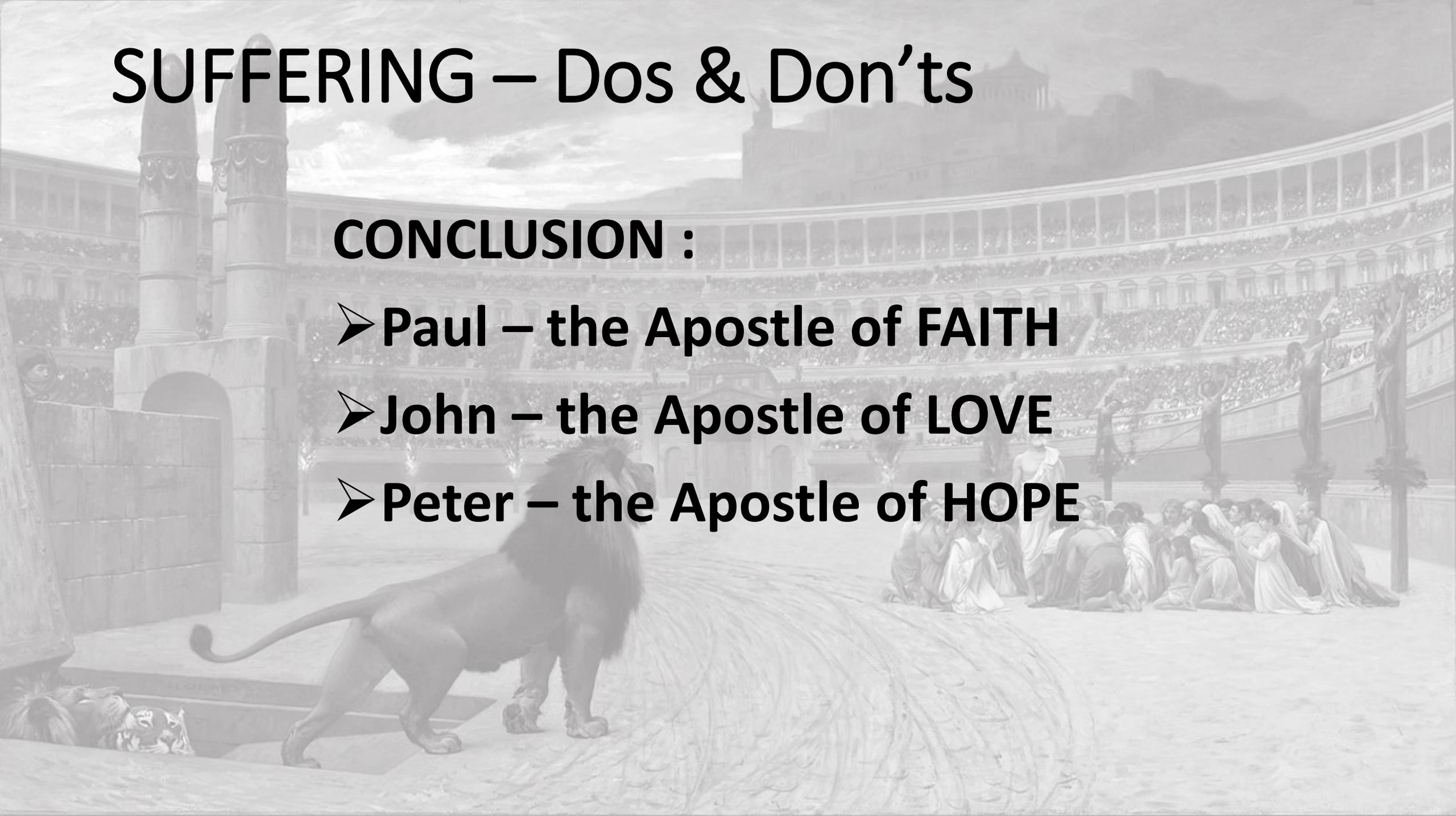
“Yes. Did I show you her picture?”

“Yes.”

“Yes.”



SUFFERING – Dos & Don'ts



CONCLUSION :

- Paul – the Apostle of **FAITH**
- John – the Apostle of **LOVE**
- Peter – the Apostle of **HOPE**

CONCLUSION :

Rom 5:3-5

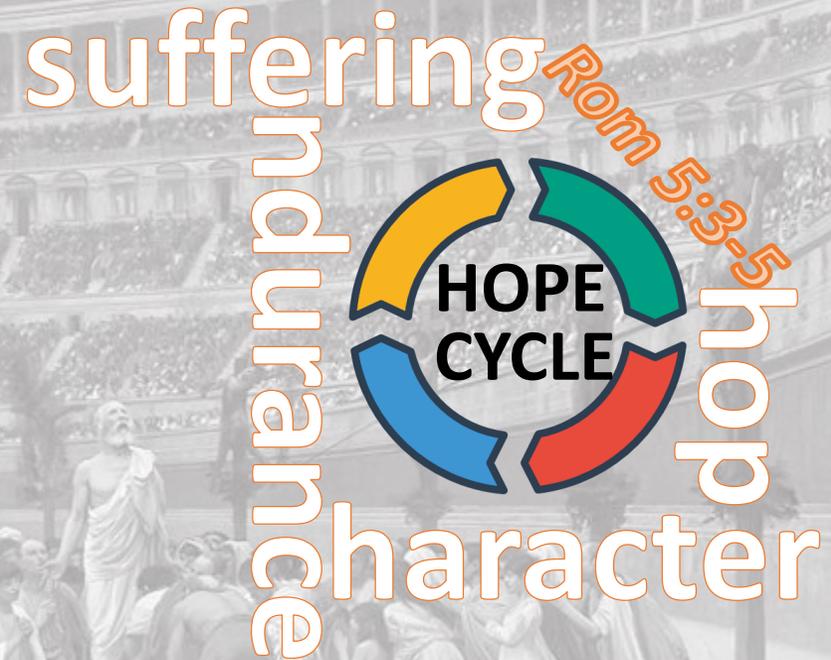
³ Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings,

because we know that SUFFERING produces PERSEVERANCE;

⁴ perseverance, CHARACTER; and character, HOPE.

⁵ And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

SUFFERING –
Dos & Don'ts



SUFFERING – Dos & Don'ts

CONCLUSION :

1 Peter 1:3-5

***Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us***

NEW BIRTH INTO A LIVING HOPE

***through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from
the dead,***

SUFFERING – Dos & Don'ts

CONCLUSION :

NEW BIRTH INTO A LIVING HOPE ...

This is the KEY to Suffering ...

If you are NOT BORN AGAIN – No Hope

Quote :

Born ONCE – Die TWICE

Born TWICE – Die ONCE

SUFFERING – Dos & Don'ts

CONCLUSION :

NEW BIRTH INTO A LIVING HOPE through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

LIVING HOPE is only possible ...

↪ Because we have a LIVING SAVIOUR.

The Christian Faith is the Only Faith with a Living Saviour – I think that says it all.

SUFFERING –
Dos & Don'ts

CONCLUSION : 1 Peter 1:3-5

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us NEW BIRTH INTO A LIVING HOPE through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and INTO AN INHERITANCE that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Quote: HEAVEN is not only a Destination BUT also a Motivation

SUFFERING – Dos & Don'ts

CONCLUSION :

Make sure your SUFFERING is ...



FROM God ...



FOR God ...



WITH GOD ...

