**Living as Foreigners: Part 9**

**How to Handle Suffering**

**1 Peter 3:13-4:6**

• This is God’s Word.

• It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction.

• It has God for its author,

• salvation for its end,

• and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter.

• It is the supreme source of truth

• for what we believe

• and how we live.

**Suffering Comes for a Variety of Reasons**

**Natural Suffering**

**Suffering Because of the Choices We or Someone Else Makes**

**Suffering Because We Follow Christ**

**“Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good?” 1 Peter 3:13**

**“But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don’t worry or be afraid of their threats.” 1 Peter 3:14**

**Don’t Worry!**

**Don’t be Afraid!**

**Be Happy!**

**How Can We be Happy in the Midst of Suffering?**

1. Worship Christ as Lord of your life.

**“Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life…” 1 Peter 3:15**

2. Tell others about your hope in Christ.

**“And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!” 1 Peter 3:15-17**

3. Remember Christ’s suffering.

“Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.” 1 Peter 3:18

4. Have Christ’s Attitude.

“So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have finished with sin. You won’t spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God. You have had enough in the past of the evil things that godless people enjoy—their immorality and lust, their feasting and drunkenness and wild parties, and their terrible worship of idols.” 1 Peter 4:1-3