



WHY DID CHRIST SUFFER?

1 PETER 2:21-25

CHRIST DIED FOR US

- There are two parts of **Good Friday** that we commemorate as believers: Christ's **death** and **suffering**
- Christ's death and resurrection is the very cornerstone of the Gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-2)
- We are called to proclaim Christ's death until He returns (1 Cor. 11:26). The **Lord's Table** is the very symbol of Christ's death on our behalf. (1 Peter 2:24; Heb. 9:28)



CHRIST SUFFERED FOR US



- Christ's suffering on the other hand, is not only physical...he was in **pain** on all sides: emotional, intellectual, spiritual, etc. (Isaiah 53) We all suffer to some degree, but it's hard for us to imagine pain on this level...
- But why must Christ suffer at all? Was not **substitutional death** the only requirement? (Roman 3:23-26)
- Why must Christ "suffer for you"? (1 Peter 2:21)
- According to Peter there are two main reasons:

1. CHRIST OFFERED HIMSELF UP FOR US



- First, suffering was part of **atoning sacrifice**—blood must be shed, as the innocent died for the guilty. Sacrifice is serious work and was never “pretty”. (v.24, John 1:29)
- Nevertheless, the “bloody” nature of sacrifice flies in contrast to our culture and society today
- **Sin** in the fallen world is not a pretty thing—the **cross** did not hide the devastating nature of sin (Isa. 53:4-6). It actually demonstrates Christ’s love for us (Rom. 5:6-8).

2. CHRIST SET US AN EXAMPLE

- (1 Peter 21-25) Jesus did not only suffer on our behalf, He has also set an **example** for us to face our suffering
- “Why me?” This is a common question. Even though it is clear according to scripture that we all shall suffer (John 16:33). Nevertheless, deep down we may not even believe it, leading us to avoid **thinking** of it...
- (v.23) Jesus “entrusting Himself” to His Father. Do we have **faith** to believe that God knows best? (Matt. 6:31-32)



SUFFERING AS A PATH OF LOVE



- Moreover, Jesus suffered because He **loves** us (John 3:16) and He was setting an **example** of true love for us (1 John 3:16) we should follow Christ's path of love (Eph. 5:1-2)
- Nevertheless, pain often brings out self-centeredness instead.
- (John 13:12-17) Suffering for others is not always **physical**, often it is emotional or spiritual. Are we willing?
- Are we willing to give up some things for the sake of **others**?
Christ has...what about you?