

## READ 1 Peter 1:6-9

Last week, we saw that Christians are not exempt from the terror and tragedy of this sinful world. In fact, Christians will more likely live a life of suffering and difficulty because they are not from this world.

- But the work of faith that God has worked in us is able to rejoice in the face of suffering because we know that our hope of salvation is alive beyond this world.

Peter has another reality for us in as we experience suffering in this world.

**- God has two divine purposes of suffering for the Christian**

**Lord of the Rings:** A council meets to discuss how to avert the coming evil that seeks to destroy their people and enslave them all. The only way to defeat this horrible enemy is to destroy the ring. This was a magical ring that control people, events and history. It was forged in a volcano called mount doom and it is there alone that the ring can be destroyed. But Mount Doom is deep into the enemies territory - making this journey beyond difficult.....its impossible.

- Impulsively the dwarf jumps us declaring "I'll destroy it!" smashing his massive battle axe down on the ring as it lie on a stone table.
- But instead of the ring being destroyed, there is an explosion shattering his axe blasting him to the ground.

**People, even Christians, struggle with suffering and why would God allow it... can't he stop it.**

- First step is acknowledging that suffering in this world is ultimately from God
- God uses suffering to achieve his purposes.
- Romans 8:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Peter tells us two things about his divine purpose of suffering in the lives of Christians:

**First is that suffering (grief) is used to purify our faith, exposes and defeating sin and idolatry,**

- Example of purifying gold in a furnace. Gold is a precious metal because it is more dense. 8X more dense than water. So when gold is melted down it sinks and the cheap stuff (dross) floats to the top and it scooped off - leaving pure gold.

**The second purpose of suffering is to harden your faith to endure to the end, to which he promised to bring you. But you are brought to the end by being changed by God.**

- Not only does heat purify metal, but it also hardens it or tempers it.
- For example , a simple bar of ore taken from the earth might be worth \$5. You could apply fire and melt that bar into some horseshoes worth about \$11. But you could also, fire it again in a furnace to make sewing needles that would be worth over \$3000.
- Again, you could fire that ore making it extremely hard by which you could make watch springs worth over \$250,000. THE MORE IT IS IEXPOSED TO FIRE THE MOE COSTLY.

**Peter tells us that our faith is proven to be genuine when tested by suffering and grief.**

WHY Because, You have shown that you love Jesus, though you've never seen him  
You believe in Jesus, though you don't see him now.

**THAT IS REAL FAITH... Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.**

**That faith is more precious than gold, because even gold will perish like every other hope on earth.**

- **but your genuine faith, that you have witnessed, will never perish, fade or become, corrupted.**
  - Your tested faith is a taste of your future eternity in the Kingdom of God
  - The seeing of our faith causes us to rejoice now, & praise in the judgment at Christ's coming.

