

Title: **The Unexpected Blessing of Suffering**
Text: **1 Peter 3:13-17**
Date: **October 5, 2025**

Find the sermon manuscript to follow along with online at mercyhillchurch.org.



Big Idea

The Christian faith doesn't exclude suffering but includes it. It doesn't call us to avoid or delight in suffering. Rather the Gospel helps us to see suffering as a blessing of opportunities to honor Christ!

1. We Are Blessed When We S_____ For J_____ (vv.13-14)

(cf. Matthew 5:10-12)

- G_____ Suffering vs. G_____ Suffering
- Contrary to the P_____ ("Health & Wealth") Gospel
- Suffering & Blessing:
 - 1) We know that God is t_____ & deepening our faith in Him (cf. 1 Peter 1:6-7, James 1:2-4)
 - 2) We experience a "deeper" a_____ of the Spirit, our union with Christ and God's love & sovereignty (cf. 1 Peter 4:13, 2 Cor 12:9, Romans 8:16-17, 35-37)
 - 3) We are reminded of our f_____ heavenly inheritance (cf. 1 Peter 1:3-4, 5:4; Romans 8:18)

2. We Are Blessed Through Our Sufferings To Be A W_____ (vv.15b-16)

(cf. Acts 16:16-34, 1 Peter 2:12; Philippians 1:12-13)

- A Witness through our W_____ (of our F_____)
- A Witness through our L_____ (cf. 1 Peter 2:12, 15; Acts 23:1, 24:16)

3. We Are Blessed Through Our Sufferings to H_____ Jesus (vv.14b-15a, 17)

(cf. 1 Peter 1:6-7, 4:16; Isaiah 8:12-13; Gal 1:10; Acts 4:27-28)

- Not Being A_____ nor Troubled
- Knowing God's G_____ & S_____

Recommended Resources

- *Health, Wealth, and the (Real) Gospel* by Sean DeMars and Mike McKinley
- *Walking with God through Pain & Suffering* by Timothy Keller
- *Conscience: What It Is, How to Train It, and Loving Those Who Differ*



Reflection Questions

- How do you view -- and typically react to -- difficulties & suffering? How does your belief about the world shape your view of suffering?
- How does this morning's passage reframe how you see (and react) to suffering -- in particular, suffering for our faith?
- When and how have you suffered or endured hardships on account of your faith?
- How have you seen members of our church community be witnesses (and blessed) through their sufferings?
- **Parent Corner:** How are you modeling out what it means to suffer for Jesus? What are some ways you can prepare, teach and pray for your child to grow in Christ-likeness as they face difficulties on account of their faith?

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Our Mission & Values

Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.

FAITH: The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate presses our church *upwards* in love

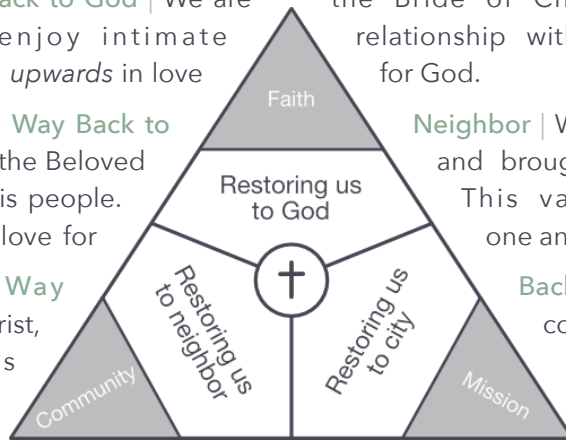
the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

COMMUNITY: The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. church *inwards* in love for

Neighbor | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal This value presses our one another.

MISSION: The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our in love for the

Back to City | We are commissioned by the ambassadors. This church *outwards* unbelieving.



Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

All Church Hangout - Today!

Meaningful community is hard to find in Silicon Valley, even in the church. Our congregation is spread out all over the city. But there is one day of every week when we all commit to gather together and worship our God: Sunday. It seems strategic to take this pre-existing momentum and work with it in an attempt to develop deeper community within our body. Therefore, on most first Sundays throughout the year we will invite the church to enjoy picnic-style afternoons together immediately following the service.

The Plan: After service, bring or buy your lunch and join us at the tables out back for a picnic-style afternoon (we may shift inside depending on weather). We'll also open the gym for people to play in!

If you have any questions, please reach out to us at info@mercyhillchurch.org.

All Church Prayer - Location Change for Tonight!

Pumpkin Carving Party - Saturday, October 25th!

Philippines Missions Trip - Two Ways to Support!

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Or find it online at mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub.