“Hope While Suffering”
1 Peter 3:14 - 17
Possible Sources of Suffering

**Physical** suffering (pain; deterioration)

**Mental** suffering (anguish, weight of “things”)

**Spiritual** suffering from personal sin – Psalm 32

**Relational** suffering – someone with power or authority over you takes advantage (abuse)

**Situational** suffering (financial, career, parental)

**Persecution** – on the line: abortion, marriage
Peter – Be Prepared to Speak!
Vs. 15

Peter’s context for writing – much suffering

What are some reasons for hope?

* God never abandons His own
  (Hebrews 13:5)
* God has the last say (Deut. 32:35)
* God works good from bad when we trust Him (Romans 8:28-29)
* God delivers from this body of suffering (Philippians 3:20-21)
Hope - God Uses Adversity To:

Refine our character to be like Jesus  
i.e. humble us, root sin issues OUT  
(Ps. 32:3 – “Thy hand was heavy on me”)

Confirm wisdom of His ways  
(Ps. 119:105 – “Thy Word is a lamp to my feet”)

Examples to others  
(2 Cor. 3:3 – as a “etter of Christ, [written] on tablets of human hearts”)
Vs. 16 – You **Will Be** Slandered For Your Faithfulness to Jesus

“...all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...” (2 Timothy 3:12).

Same – sex issues - Aaron and Melissa Klein, “Sweet Cakes” Gresham, Oregon, 2013
Judge Roy Moore, AL, suspended as judge
* ordered probate courts to not issue marriage licenses for same-sex couples

God’s parameters of sexual expression (inside marriage relationship)
The top three reasons cited by Americans as important motivations in leaving their childhood religion are:
* they stopped believing in the religion’s teachings (60 percent),
* their family was never that religious when they were growing up (32 percent),
* negative religious teachings about or treatment of gay and lesbian people (29 percent).
The Significance of Steady, Consistent Lifestyle vs. 18

Keep a good conscience (i.e. you examine self, no need to “do-over” a scene or behavior)

SO when you are slandered...those who revile your good behavior will be put to shame...

When you are SLANDERED, people who know you will know better!
They’ve seen you manage this before! 😊
God is “OK” With You Suffering For Doing Right! Vs. 17

“if God should will it so” (to suffer)

Bible examples of “saints suffering”
* Job (righteous, yet suffered)
* Joseph in jail
* Daniel in lions’ den
* Jesus at Calvary

You are blessed when you suffer for doing right; but not for doing what is wrong

(Matthew 5:12)
How Should We Respond to ....

Challenges to Biblical truth? **Stand firm**

Those who wander and stray?  
Love, speak truth in love, but do not compromise the truth!

Those who persecute you? /  
Break the stereotype of angry Baptists

**Discouragement** – don’t give up! (Heb. 10:24-25)