**January 21, 2018**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**How Do We Handle Suffering?**

*1 Peter 4:12-19*

1. Principle #1: Do not be surprised by suffering but rejoice. (4:12-13)

2. Principle #2: Everybody suffers. Make sure you suffer for the right things. (4:14-15)

3. Principle #3: Do not be ashamed of suffering but glorify God in the name of Jesus. (4:16)

4. Principle #4: Judgment has a different purpose for the believer than it does for the unbeliever. (4:17-18)

5. Principle #5: Trust your faithful Creator (4:19)

**Table Talk Questions**

1. Why is it easy to be surprised by suffering?  How is rejoicing in suffering now going to help us rejoice in glory later? (vv. 12-13)
2. How many people suffer? What is the one way to be blessed in suffering? Why is that a blessed position? (see vv. 14-15)
3. What are ways that we can be ashamed of suffering? What are ways that we can glorify God in suffering? (v. 16)
4. How does thinking about the outcome of suffering for the believer and the unbeliever change my attitude about suffering? (vv. 17-18)
5. Do you agree with Peter that believers can suffer “according to the will of God”? If so, how does that impact our view of God’s goodness?  Can you trust a “faithful Creator,” even if it is His will that you suffer?