

## A FAITHFUL CREATOR

**“Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator” (1 Pet. 4:19, NKJV).**

**P**ain is unpleasant. Intense, prolonged pain can cause some to question God’s integrity. “If God is all-powerful and benevolent,” muses the skeptic, “then pain and suffering should not exist. But since they *do exist*, such a God must not.”

To complicate matters, Peter does not address random suffering but good people who are in distress for honoring God: “*for it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil*” (1 Peter 3:17; cf. 4:14, 16). What kind of God allows this to be?!

With no hint of inconsistency, Peter calls Him “*a faithful Creator*.” God’s critic is usually one-sided. But observed from all sides, God’s faithfulness is sterling. First, God is faithful to His creative purpose in allowing men free will, even when it is used to afflict His own people. However, God is also faithful in levying upon free will the tax of accountability. Those who torment the innocent “*will give an account to Him who is ready to judge ...*” (1 Peter 4:5). Justice will be done.

But further, God transforms suffering into a deep yearning for His revealed glory (1 Peter 4:13). Pain reminds us of our alien status in this world. C.S. Lewis observed, “Our Father refreshes us on the journey with some pleasant inns, but will not encourage us to mistake them for home” (*The Problem of Pain*, p. 115). We are not to merely endure suffering but “*be glad with exceeding joy*,” for He has far greater things in store for us.

God’s faithfulness frees us to “*commit [our] souls to Him in doing good*.” No fear of the fraudulent squandering of our investment. No craving the elusive praise of men. We can do what is right because it is right and leave the rest to our faithful Creator. JMJ