

## UNDESERVED SUFFERING

### INTRODUCTION:

“I, John, your brother and fellow partaker (hoadelphos kai svg koinonos) in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance (te thipsis kai basileia kai hupomone) which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because (dia + ac of cause) of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus”.

This verse describes undeserved suffering (U/S) in the Christian Way of Life (CWL). It describes the church of Jesus Christ under attack within a nation (Rome).

We will study six homiletical points on Revelation 1:9 (Philippians 3:10)

- Partakers – church within nation – seven of Asia Minor
- Persecution – Emperor Domitian following Nero – they singled out Christians within empire (Philippians 1:29)
- Priestly – Revelation 1:6 – Kingdom (1 Peter 2:5, 9)
- Patience – James 1:2-4 (hupomone) – Galatians 5:22-23
- Patmos – volcanic rock island; one town/Pena/Colony; eight miles long and four miles wide – 50 miles southwest of Ephesus – Aegean Sea
- Preaching – Word of God and gospel of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:14-16; Revelation 1:2)

(Nero and Domitian made it a crime against the state to be a Christian.)

<b>This lesson will study FIVE aspects of undeserved suffering (U/S).</b>
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### 1. There are three categories of suffering in CWL.

- **U/S** – subject of lesson – “For the sake of Christ” Philippians 1:29
- **Divine discipline** – Hebrews 12:5-11
- **Self-induced misery** – Frustration (stress) in Proverbs 14:30, 27:4. Futility of mind (empty pursuits) in Ephesians 4:17. Fast lane in 1 Peter 4:3-4. Fast crowd in Luke 15:13. Fines and imprisonment in 1 Peter 4:15.

### 2. U/S is part of the plan of God and is intended for Divine good

(Romans 8:28, 5:3-5; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 2:19 (adikos pascao); Psalm 119:71; 2 Corinthians 6:4-10, 12:8-10; 1 Peter 4:16; 2 Timothy 3:12.

**3. Jesus is the spiritually advancing believer's example of U/S**

(John 15:19-20; 1 Peter 2:21 (hupogrammos - original copy); James 5:9-11 (hupodeigma - carbon copy); Romans 8:17; 2 Corinthians 1:5; Hebrews 5:8).

**4. U/S is an extension of intensification of the Angelic Conflict in the CWL**

(James 5:11; Job 1:7, 2:1-6; 1 Peter 5:6-10; 2 Corinthians 12:7; Revelation 12:10).

- **For the sake of Christ** (Philippians 1:29)
- **For the sake of the church** (Colossians 1:24)
- **For the sake of conscience** (1 Peter 2:19-20)
- **For the sake of +R"** (1 Peter 3:14-17) (+R = God's righteousness)
- **For the sake of the gospel** (Philippians 1:7, 12-20)

**5. The crown of life will be awarded in phase III of the plan of God to believers who are faithful under U/S**

(Revelation 2:10; James 5:11; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-5).