

December 19 Answers

- 1) Peter's first letter to the believers in Asia Minor (modern day **Turkey**). Peter was aware of the **persecution** these Christians had experienced, and he knew that more suffering was on the way (cf. 1 Pet 4:12–19). This prompted him to write a letter of encouragement and exhortation. Peter's comments have much to teach us about suffering. First, suffering is part of God's **plan** for our lives. It isn't pleasant, but it is **purposeful**. Second, suffering **tests** the genuineness of our faith. This means that suffering is intended to **refine** and perfect our faith. As we endure by God's grace, the fire of suffering gives our faith a **quality** that will result in the praise and approval of Christ. Third, suffering is evidence of our **union** with Christ. This means that suffering **demonstrates** that we are in Christ, for the Spirit rests on those who **share** in Christ's sufferings. Fourth, suffering is a reason to **rejoice**. Suffering is a **sign** to us that we will be saved when Christ's glory is revealed. This is grounds for joy and gladness, for those who suffer with the Son, will also **rule** and reign with Him (2 Tim 2:12).