



First Peter Message Series

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1 Peter 4:1-11

Following Christ & End Times Attitudes

In this chapter, Peter gives three benefits that come to the Christian when they go through suffering in the will of God. (1 Peter 3:17).

We often think that suffering is linked to _____, however we find in 1 Peter that suffering can be linked to both the will of God and the pursuit of doing evil. (1 Peter 3:17) The key to determining the difference is your heart towards God and repentance. Job suffered for doing good, was allowed to undergo suffering, was blamed, cursed, ridiculed, and lost all he had – Job was suffering under the will of God. Job regained everything taken from him and more.

1. Suffering _____ the Followers of Christ. (4:1-6)

- Often when life is smooth sailing we drift into carelessness and sin.
- Suffering Changes our values, and 'should' redirect our direction back to God.
- Suffering reminds us of our promises to God, and that He is in control of every aspect of our lives. (Psalm 66:10-14)

Here is what suffering does for us:

2. Suffering Identifies Us With _____. (vs1)

- Christ suffered so that He might save us from sin.
- We learn to hate sin and love Him more.
- "Arm yourself" – we must realize that this is a term for battle.
- We are to have the same 'understanding' = Mind of Christ.
- The only way to find victory in our suffering is to put Christ in His rightful place in our life, and understand that as He suffered, we too, will suffer for His name's sake. Christ is victorious over every battle and as we have the mind of Christ – we will also find victory, understanding, and peace, even in storms and suffering.

3. Suffering Reminds Us that Life is _____. (vs 2-3)

- We often take life for granted until we face a period of suffering, and then our values change, our direction changes, and our point of view changes.
- It is foolish for the Christian to spend time wasting their life chasing after sin. (Mark 8:36) – there is nothing in this world worth the loss of your soul.
- We are called to live the - Will of God - NOT the will of man. || We are His people.

4. Suffering Points Ahead to God's _____. (vs 4-6)

- We live in one of two places (right now) we either live according to the judgement of others OR by the judgment of God. – by which are you living?
- Those who make the choice to keep living a sinful life and never come to Christ for salvation will be judged by God, and will be cast in the lake of fire (hell) (Rev. 20:15)
- We must completely understand – there is no second chance for salvation or rescue after death. This is not what this passage is teaching. Verse 6 could be paraphrased as such:
 - *There are people now dead physically, but alive with God in the spirit, who were judged by the world. But they heard the Gospel before they died and believed. (Romans 10:9) They suffered and died because of their faith – but they are living with God.*
 - *It is better to suffer for Christ and go to be with God than to follow the world and be lost.*
- Arm Yourself – with the same attitude Christ has while on earth (Luke 22:42)
- If we face suffering without a _____ attitude, suffering will cause us to become bitter rather than build us up in faith, and purify us.

“God wants nothing more than the heartbroken, and suffering child to hold tight to His hand so that He may prove that He is in control and that God is Good.” – PW

Say it with me : God is good all the time **AND** All the time – God is good.
(Romans 8:28)

Our lifeline:

Christ is our Living Hope

He gave His life for each of us

We have power to do what we should do – not what we want to do.

We find in Christ and Christ alone our strength to conquer the suffering of this present time – until we see Jesus face to face.

Keeping the Sober and Vigilant mind of Christ as our own

When you fully crown Jesus King of your life – there is room for no other.

Our End-Times Attitude Matters.

5. Suffering Unifies the _____ (vs 7-11)

- We are reminded again to be ALERT and SOBER-MINDED.
- Peter encourages us how to go about life in such a time as this (even today) as we see the “end of all things” getting closer and closer.
- There is one thing that makes the top of the list over and over through out scripture and Peter places it on the top of his list as well –
- _____ . It replaces self-focus with God focus. (Psalm 12:1-2)

We are to live a life of:

1. Constant Love for one another – covering many wrongs.
2. Hospitality – Welcoming and Serving (Matthew 25:40)
3. Service to Others, based on your spiritual gifts.
(Saved People _____ people)

God intends His church to be full-service with each member providing for the well-being of others. This does not mean the church is to be consumer driven (getting what you want, how you want, when you want, or moving somewhere else) this is anti-biblical and does not please God. Church is not a convenience store.

Since we have been given much grace - we must be a conduit of grace to others. So, whatever your spiritual gift, it's all about God – not about you.

If anyone serves – let it be from the strength that God provides. (v11)

6. We do all of this to bring _____ to God through Christ Jesus.

- Everything we do should bring glory to God. (inside and outside the church building) our life should be lived to bring glory to God through Christ Jesus.

How do we bring Glory to God?

1. Completely Surrender your life to Him. (salvation, repentance, goals)
2. Give thanks in all things. Pray in all situations.
3. When suffering get your focus on God – Prayer, Scripture, Support.
4. Serve others, Core Value – Saved People Serve People.

Your greatest step to bringing God glory through Christ Jesus is to surrender (give) your life to Him today. Let nothing hold you back (Mark 8:36)