

# 1 Peter - Week 18

## Hope in the Midst of Suffering

1 Peter 3:10 Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. 11 He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." 13 Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened." 15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 17 It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. NIV

We are “saintly” by how we live our lives, our testimony, and by using our TONGUE for His glory.

Peter puts before us:

### 1. The Right PATH

- Temptation goes UNCHECKED in our life and we open gates that God wants closed permanently.
- CURIOSITY is what empowers temptation.
- David, in dealing with King Saul on many occasions, had to turn away from what the FLESH wanted, and turn instead to what was best according to God.
- Flesh loves to embrace the FORBIDDEN.
- David tells us to do GOOD.
- Doing good is following the DIRECTIONS God sets out for us. It's allowing God to initiate a faith walk in our lives that may require CHANGE.
- David tells us through Peter we are also to seek PEACE.
- We must learn how to shut it down and REST. Others must learn how to get up and get going.

### 2. The Right PERSPECTIVE

- David suffered a temporary lack of FAITH and purity with Bathsheba.
- He had a heart of REPENTANCE when confronted by the prophet Samuel.

### 3. The Right POLICY

- Peter shows that Christians need not fear that our patient, inoffensive behavior we show others will invite and ENCOURAGE the cruelty of our enemies.
- This text is hard for me and many believers, because we see suffering as UNFAIR.

What does Peter tell us to do?

#### 1. We are to suffer BOLDLY.

- Suffer for the right REASON.
- The suffering of that day was truly a suffering for the sake of RIGHTEOUSNESS.

1 Peter 3:14 But even in case you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, AMP
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- Suffer with the right REACTION.
- Suffer with the right RESOLVE.
- The resurrection makes every coward BRAVE.

#### 2. We are to suffer with BELIEVING hearts.

Final thoughts:

- Be PREPARED--for the attacks of the enemy, and be prepared by His Word not to get off course.
- Be PRACTICAL

What was their secret? Simply this: “Christ in you the HOPE of glory.”