

1 PETER

EXILED

STANDING FIRM IN GOD'S GRACE



Suffering to Bless

1 Peter 3.8-22

Main Idea

We are called not just to endure suffering but bless others through our suffering that they too might come to embrace the hope we have in being brought back to God through Christ.

Overview

I. **Live in Gospel Community**

- Peter is addressing the church community as a whole – “all of you”
- He’s calling them to bless those among them by having:
 - Unity of mind
 - Sympathy
 - Brother love
 - Tender hearts
 - Humility
- He’s calling them to bless those around them by
 - Repaying good for evil
 - Responding with blessing rather than cursing
- All of this is made possible because it flows from chapter 2:20-21 – the gospel

II. **Focus on Gospel Promises**

- Peter says to live this way “that you may obtain a blessing:
 - Peter is not saying we have to ultimately earn blessings from God by doing certain deeds or acting a certain way.
 - In chapter 1 Peter told us these blessings were bought with the precious blood of Christ; they are being guarded through faith – not works.
 - The promises of the gospel are graciously given not exhaustingly earned.
- Verses 10-14 give two gospel promises
 - Verses 10-12: God’s eyes and ears are open to those who strive to live an honorable, Christ-exalting life
 - Verses 13-13: No one and nothing can ultimately harm those are trusting in God
- Therefore, Christians should “have no fear, nor be troubled”
- The antidote to fear of man is to be consumed with the glory of Christ – “But in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy”

III. **Speak with Gospel Hope**

- As you hallow the Lord’s name in your heart, you prepare you to confess him with your lips
- We must remember Peter’s words are flowing from verse 8 – “all of you” – he’s speaking to us not just individually, but collectively

- We are to be prepared to give a reason for the hope that is in us
 - This does not mean we must be able to answer every question
 - Apologetics is useful, but alone will not explain the hope that we have
 - The best “defense” is a good “offense” – in order to point someone else to Christ we have to be looking their ourselves
- Verse 18-22 explain the reason we have hope
 - Because Christ suffered once for sins – he sacrifice was perfect and did not need to be repeated
 - Because the Righteous One suffered for the unrighteous ones
 - Because Christ brings us back to God!
 - Because Christ was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit – he rose again on the 3rd day
 - Because Christ not only rose again on the 3rd day, but ascended and is seated at the right hand of God with all authority

Questions

Discussion Starter: *Why does responding with grace/forgiveness/blessing in the midst of suffering provide a powerful witness in a ‘narcissistic’ culture?*

1. Read 1 Peter 3:8-22. Why is it important to keep in mind that Peter is addressing “all of you?”
2. How do these five things Peter is calling us to in verse 8 help us bless each other in suffering? How have you seen these exemplified at Restoration Church?
3. What does it mean in verse 12 where it says, “For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are open to their prayer?” How does this help you not only endure suffering, but to bless others through it?
4. Why is reverent fear of Christ the only antidote to retreating fear of man? Where do you see fear of man most controlling/crippling in your life? What would it look like to have fear of Christ in that area?
5. How does regarding the Lord Christ as holy help you “always [be] prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you?”
6. What is the best way you can be prepared to defend the hope that you have? Have you been asked for the reason you have hope recently? If so, why? If not, why do you think that is the case?
7. Discuss all the ways verses 18-22 provide the basis for the hope that you have.

Accountability Question: *Where are you captive to the retreating fear of man rather than reverent fear of Christ?*