

"A Living Hope"

Week 6: Suffering According to God's Will, Part 1

1 Peter 3:13-22

Main idea: Suffer well.

I. **Understand that suffering never has the _____ . (vv. 13, 14)**

II. **Don't _____ or be troubled. (v. 14)**

Isaiah 8:12-14:

12 "You are not to say, "It is a conspiracy!"

In regard to all that this people call a conspiracy,

And you are not to fear what they fear or be in dread of it.

13 "It is the LORD of hosts whom you should regard as holy.

And He shall be your fear,

And He shall be your dread.

14 "Then He shall become a sanctuary;

III. **Set apart Christ as _____ in your heart. (vv. 15-17)**

a. Be ready to give a defense

b. Keep a good conscience

IV. **Rejoice that you share in Christ's _____ (vv. 18-22)**

3 main views of vv. 19, 20:

- 1) The “spirits now in prison” are disobedient humans who lived in the time of Noah, to whom Christ’s Spirit preached **through Noah** while they were still on the earth in order to call them to repentance. There is no notion of Christ descending into hell in this view. (In support of this view, there is mention of the pre-incarnate Spirit of Christ speaking through the OT prophets in 1 Peter 1:11)
- 2) The “spirits now in prison” are the souls of disobedient humans who died in the flood, now in hell, to whom Jesus preached in the period between His death and resurrection. According to this view, Jesus descended to hell and offered these “spirits” another opportunity to repent and be saved. (There are serious theological challenges with this view.)
- 3) The “spirits now in prison” are fallen angels to whom Christ proclaimed the announcement of His victory and judgement over sin. (This is the majority view today. Jude 6 and 2 Peter 2:4 both refer to these fallen angels.)

When we come to difficult passages like this, our goal is always to KEEP THE _____ THINGS THE _____ THINGS.

Here are the “plain things”:

- 1) Christ, being sinless, suffered according to the will of God so that He might bring us to God.
- 2) There is something to be learned from Noah’s example.
- 3) Baptism is a picture of salvation.
- 4) Christ is the exalted, resurrected Lord who has ALL authority and whose suffering has secured victory over ALL evil powers.
- 5) Believers have no need to fear that suffering will have the final word because they share the same destiny as Jesus. Suffering in the pathway to glory!

Time to “marinate”:

- 1) What truth stood out to you the most and why?
- 2) We saw how Peter’s view of suffering was transformed over time. How has your view of suffering changed as you’ve grown as a Christian?
- 3) Have you had any recent opportunities to give an answer for the hope that you have? If so, please share!
- 4) What practical things are you currently doing to set apart Christ as Lord in your heart?