

**"The Believer's Suffering"**

**Part 2**

**1 Peter 3:13-5:14**

**Introduction:** This morning we started into this third and final section of Peter's letter which deals with the suffering of believers.

**I. The Proper Attitude in Suffering**

**Notice 1 Peter 3:13**

This is a rhetorical question. He is not expecting an answer, but he is using it to make a point. When we live as up right citizens, we are normally exempt from persecution. The Bible does teach us that when we live godly lives we will suffer.

**1 Timothy 3:11-13**

<sup>11</sup> *Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.*

<sup>12</sup> **Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.**

<sup>13</sup> *But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.*

When there is persecution those who inflict it can only harm the body.

**Matthew 10:27-28**

<sup>27</sup> *What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.*

<sup>28</sup> **And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**

**Notice 1 Peter 3:14**

When we do suffer FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE we are privileged. This morning we looked at how suffering prepares us for glory. Not just eternal glory but even glory now. When we suffer and we deal with it in a Biblical way then we manifest our Lord. We are actually glorifying Him as we accept suffering as part of His plan for our lives.

**2 Corinthians 4:7-11**

<sup>7</sup> *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*

<sup>8</sup> *We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;*

<sup>9</sup> *Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;*

<sup>10</sup> *Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.*

<sup>11</sup> *For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.*

**Notice 1 Peter 3:14 again.**

We are commanded not to fear any attacks which the enemy brings. We are not to allow our minds to be sway back and forth by fear and anxiety. The next verse gives us the remedy.

**Notice 1 Peter 3:15a**

We are to set Jesus Christ apart in our hearts as the Lord of our lives. He is to set on the throne in our hearts. Not fear, discouragement, anxiety or anything else that can control us. When we become afraid, we will most likely abandon our watch.

**Notice 1 Peter 3:15b**

When Jesus has the proper authority in our hearts then others will see the hope within us and will ask about the peace and strength we manifest. It is then that we are to give an answer of the hope within us. This is where we stopped this morning. I did remind us that in order to give an answer we must know the world of God. If we are not rooted and grounded in the Word, we will certainly not show forth hope and neither will we be able to give an answer for those who are looking for hope.

**Psalm 1:1-3**

*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

<sup>2</sup> *But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

<sup>3</sup> *And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

**Notice 1 Peter 3:15 again.**

The answer is to be given with MEEKNESS and FEAR. This means we are not to be abrasive with our testimony. We are to be under self-control, and we are to show respect to the person who asks. The back ground helps us to understand why Peter says this. If one of these believers was under great pressure and then someone was to ask why they were not fearful there would be the tendency to be abrasive with their answer. Let me remind you of something that Peter said earlier.

**Notice 1 Peter 3:9-10**

Refraining the tongue is associated with a good life. In other words to control the tongue would make life much easier under persecution.

**Proverbs 15:1-2**

*A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.*

<sup>2</sup> *The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.*

**James 3:5-13**

<sup>5</sup> *Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!*

<sup>6</sup> *And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.*

<sup>7</sup> *For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:*

<sup>8</sup> *But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.*

<sup>9</sup> *Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.*

<sup>10</sup> *Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.*

<sup>11</sup> *Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?*

*<sup>12</sup> Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.*

*<sup>13</sup> Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.*

**Notice 1 Peter 3:16a**

Here we see that Peter exhorts his readers to live in a way that they have a good conscience. This is so important for the believer. We are to listen to our conscience and when we are convicted, we are to heed our conscience. Let us notice a few verses that speak of the conscience.

**1 Corinthians 8:8-12**

*<sup>8</sup> But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse.*

*<sup>9</sup> But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.*

*<sup>10</sup> For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols;*

*<sup>11</sup> And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?*

*<sup>12</sup> But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.*

Paul warned those at Corinth about leading others down a path to violate their conscience. That is a sin against the Lord Himself. We should be very careful about violating our conscience. It has been given to us by our God as a warning device.

**Romans 2:14-15**

*<sup>14</sup> For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:*

*<sup>15</sup> Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, **their conscience also bearing witness**, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)*

If it is violated it can become seared.

**1 Timothy 4:1-2**

*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;*

<sup>2</sup> *Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;*

Now getting back to Peter, he is exhorting his readers to live with a clear conscience so that when they were accused their accusers would be put to shame.

**Notice 1 Peter 3:16**

Peter's readers were to live in such a way that those who stood against them had nothing to use when accusing them. This is the way we too are to live. We are to be sure we heed our conscience and live in such a way that those who would accuse us would have nothing to use. It is shameful when a believer lives in such a way that they can be rebuked by the world.

**Genesis 12:14-20**

<sup>14</sup> *And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair.*

<sup>15</sup> *The princes also of Pharaoh saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.*

<sup>16</sup> *And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels.*

<sup>17</sup> *And the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife.*

<sup>18</sup> *And Pharaoh called Abram and said, What is this that thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife?*

<sup>19</sup> *Why saidst thou, She is my sister? so I might have taken her to me to wife: now therefore behold thy wife, take her, and go thy way.*

<sup>20</sup> *And Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him: and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had.*

**Notice 1 Peter 3:17**

I want us to notice the words "if the will of God be so." Sometimes it is the will of God that His children go through suffering.

**Mark 6:45-48**

*<sup>45</sup> And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people.*

*<sup>46</sup> And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.*

*<sup>47</sup> And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land.*

*<sup>48</sup> And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.*

Peter tells his readers that it is better to suffer as appointed by God for doing good than it is to suffer for evil doing. Let us understand that sometimes it is the will of God that when we do good, we suffer for it. So when we experience this, it is our responsibility to understand that the Lord is in control as He has permitted the suffering to come. It has been permitted to allow me to glorify my Savior in the midst of this trial.

**Conclusion:**

Notice the words of Herbert Carson:

*"Because Jesus drank so deeply of bitter suffering, he is able to steady our hand as we drink what for us is a bitter draught but is, by comparison with his, a diluted cup."*

**Hebrews 4:15-16**

*<sup>15</sup> For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

*<sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*