

**"The Believer's Suffering"**

**Part 4**

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

**Introduction:** The last time we were together in our study of 1 Peter we were looking at the proper attitude of the believer when faced with suffering.

**Notice 1 Peter 3:13-15**

A believer is privileged to suffer for living righteously. When that kind of suffering comes, we are not to fear those who bring the persecution but instead we are to sanctify Jesus Christ as Lord in our hearts. This will then allow our hope to be manifest and we are then to be ready to give an answer for our hope.

**Notice 1 Peter 3:16-17**

We are to live in such a way that we do not violate our conscience and we are to live in such a way that those who would slander us would find no proof to back their accusations. Peter tells his readers that it is better to suffer for righteousness than it is to suffer for doing evil.

He then goes on to show us the Example of how to suffer for righteousness. He does this by pointing to our Lord. Peter speaks of several points here:

**1. Jesus suffering.**

**Notice 1 Peter 3:18**

Jesus suffered for sin but not His sin. He suffered for our sins. He endured the humiliation, rejection and the pain of the cross so that He would make a way for us to come to God.

**Hebrews 2:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

<sup>10</sup> *For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, **in bringing many sons unto glory**, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

<sup>11</sup> *For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,*

We need to pause here for a moment and be reminded that when we suffer for righteousness that we have a Savior who can identify with what we are going through. Jesus was made perfect through sufferings. This means He was made perfect "IN EXPERIENCE" so that He could then identify with us in our sufferings.

**Hebrews 4:14-16**

*<sup>14</sup> Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

*<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.*

**Notice 1 Peter 3:18 again.**

Looking at this verse we can say that Jesus suffered for living righteously. He suffered under the ridicule of many around Him because His life and teaching convicted them and instead of repenting, many turned to hatred for Him. He also suffered because of His righteousness in the sense that we needed a sinless Sacrifice to pay the penalty for our sin. So, because He was perfectly righteous, He was appointed to suffer for us. Therefore, our Lord knows what we experience when we suffer for righteousness.

**2. Jeus longsuffering.**

**Notice 1 Peter 3:19-20**

Jesus preached through Noah as the ark was being built. The people whom Noah preached to are now in prison/in hell, but when he was building the ark, they were living on the earth. Jesus preached through Noah for 120 years and He gave many warnings. Now some might want to disagree that Jesus preached through Noah, but the Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit spoke through David.

**Acts 1:16**

*<sup>16</sup> Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.*

The Bible also tells us that the Lord spoke through a donkey to Balaam. Therefore, we can see that our Lord would have no problem speaking through Noah.

This was the longsuffering of our Lord. He endured the evil of Noah's day which far exceeded anything we can imagine.

**Genesis 6:1-5**

*And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,*

*<sup>2</sup> That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.*

*<sup>3</sup> And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.*

*<sup>4</sup> There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.*

*<sup>5</sup> And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

**Application:**

The application in all of this for us today is that we are to face suffering with the very same attitude that Jesus manifest. He endured the suffering because there were souls who needed to be saved. He was longsuffering because He was not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance and be saved. When we exercise patience in suffering and when we are longsuffering with people who mistreat us, we are then manifesting Jesus Christ to them.

**Philippians 2:5-8**

*<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

*<sup>6</sup> Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:*

*<sup>7</sup> But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*

*<sup>8</sup> And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

Before we move on to the next two verses there is yet something for us to see here.

**Notice 1 Peter 3:16**

We are to live with a clear conscience and that is only possible by living lives of righteousness.

**Notice 1 Peter 3:20 again.**

Noah is an example of living with a clear conscience. God delivered to him a message of coming judgment and Noah stayed the course to get the ark built while he also preached of the coming judgment. He had to endure much harsh ridicule. Noah did not fear man but instead he obeyed God.

This is the way we too are to face the attacks from others. We are to stay the course and continue to walk in obedience to the Lord. Whatever He has called us to do we must see the work through to the end.

**1 Corinthians 15:58**

*<sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

Now Peter will make an application for the believer.

**Notice 1 Peter 3:21**

Before we get too far into this verse let us first of all understand what Peter is NOT teaching here. He is NOT teaching that we are saved by baptism. Baptism is NOT a requirement for salvation. There is another verse that is often misunderstood pertaining to baptism.

**Acts 2:38**

*<sup>38</sup> Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

There are those who will use 1 Peter 3:21 and Acts 2:38 to teach that baptism is required for salvation. But that is not correct.

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

*<sup>8</sup> For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

*<sup>9</sup> Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Notice the words which Paul wrote to the Corinthians:

**1 Corinthians 1:17**

<sup>17</sup> For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

If baptism was a requirement for salvation, then Paul would have certainly been sent to baptize.

Baptism is important for it is a public statement of identification with Jesus Christ. It is the very first step of obedience that the new believer is to take. Now let us get back to what Peter is saying.

**Notice 1 Peter 3:20-21**

We need to look at both of these verses in order to understand verse 21. Noah and his family were saved by the ark which was floated by the flood waters that came upon the earth. We could say that in the ark they were sheltered from the judgment of God. This was Noah's reward for enduring the harsh ridicule for 120 years.

**Notice 1 Peter 3:21-22**

Peter is not talking here about water baptism saving us, but he is referring to what water baptism pictures. It is a picture of what happened to us when we placed our faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. When we did that, we were baptized/placed into, the body of Jesus Christ and in Him we are sheltered from the judgment of God, just as Noah was sheltered IN THE ARK.

**Romans 8:1-2**

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

<sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Notice the words of an unnamed teacher:

"The "baptism" Peter is talking about is not this daily ritual but that which gives a clean conscience, when one is identified by grace through faith in the finished work of Christ's death, burial and resurrection. Only then can a man truly have a "good conscience". And this truth of identification with Christ (baptism into Christ) would encourage the believers who might be called to suffer and even die for the sake of righteousness. After all why should they now fear man? What could man do to them? They could not be killed because they had already died with Christ, and they now had everlasting life.

*So Peter's allusion to Noah, baptism and good conscience is to encourage his readers about who they were in Christ (that they were "safe in the Ark" so to speak) no matter what fiery trials might come their way. And to show the completeness of this victory over present sufferings, Peter teaches that after His suffering and death, Christ ascended to the right hand of the Father and now all powers (including evil angels) were subject to Him. He triumphed over evil in every way. Peter was saying that "You are on the winning team. Keep a good conscience before God. Live the way you are supposed to live by doing what is right!" Amen."*

**Conclusion:**

I will close with a few verses from Romans 8.

**Romans 8:31-39**

*<sup>31</sup> What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*

*<sup>32</sup> He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*

*<sup>33</sup> Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.*

*<sup>34</sup> Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

*<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

*<sup>36</sup> As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

*<sup>37</sup> Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

*<sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*

*<sup>39</sup> Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*