

A severe persecution under Nero began in October 64 AD

- This 'fiery trial' (1:7; 4:12) would spread out of Rome to the Roman provinces . .
- Peter wrote to these churches founded in Asia Minor -1 Peter 1:1; 2 Peter 3:1
- Theme: Grace (2:19-20) **Favor**... we depend on God's grace through the trials
- Peter expects them to grow and mature through this? Christlikeness . . .Impact

*Just because we are **vertically secure in salvation** does not make horizontal application easy: (Examples: To speak boldly, live honorably, submit freely... is extremely difficult, but always keep in mind that disobedience is always more difficult and costly in the long run)

Specific Tasks We are Called to Practice: enhance credibility as a witness and disciple

- Fix your hope completely on future grace (1:13)
- Put aside all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, and envy and slander (2:1)
- Abstain from fleshly lusts and do good deeds (2:12)
- Submit to earthly leaders, Honor all people; love God, honor the king (2:17)
- Servants be submissive to masters (2:18)
- To bear up under sorrows, patiently endure suffering (2:20)
- In the same way, wives (3:1) - Husbands - Everyone - to suffer in a godly way . .
- "Fervently love one another from the heart " (4:8)

Billy Graham: "The true test of life is to keep heart kind and gentle in the most difficult of circumstances."

But how? PATHOS - The passion and suffering of Christ, which God had planned and favored, and which He endured patiently for us, all to the glory of God -

His passion fuels our passion; His suffering fuels our suffering

"Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; rather, it has been found difficulty and left untried" (GK Chesterton)

- To submit (be up under with endurance and fortitude) is difficult; to wage war with the flesh is difficult: naturally counter to us and our natural aversion to suffering and sacrifice

Four Ways Christ's Passion empowers our growth in salvation:

understand, celebrate, and apply

1. His Passion Defines Our Mission - *here is our syllabus. assignments.*

- a. "For you have been called for this purpose." (submit and endure while suffering)
- b. "Since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same purpose" (4:1)
- c. God has called us to this purpose: 'For the Lord's sake'; 'finds favor with God.'
 - i. What it is not / The whole duty of man
- d. Purpose for us as individuals and corporate: living stones, built up
- e. The good news we hold before others as we hold onto it ourselves:
 - i. Peter is preaching Christ to them: especially Isaiah 53: The Holy Spirit uses God's Word to create endurance and righteousness through deep work into His suffering. Example, Suffering Servant; Shepherd; Guardian
 - ii. This is the message and mission to hold before others in word or deed;
 - iii. Col. 1:27-28; Matt. 5:16; Matthew 28; Acts 1:8 - be and make disciples
 - iv. We are truly a divine work of art . . . God's *poema* -
 - v. That they would see Christ. . . and come to Christ . . . we embodied this
 1. Keep preaching the Gospel to yourself every day . .
 2. Keep enduring suffering and the hard steps of discipleship by remembering His passion; his suffering . . . There is no other way that does not make things worse . . .there are sinful ways tempting us, but only lead to more sin and regret . . .
 3. Who we are and who we are becoming is revealed in our actions - and how we respond to suffering . .
 4. Always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body (2 Cor. 4:10)
 5. Paul bore the brand marks of Christ (Gal. 6:17) Gal. 2:20
- f. We thus need regular intervention and reminding from God through His word, His church, His ordinances . . . of what our true calling entails . .
- g. "We may wish that we were of so little account to God that He left us alone to follow our natural impulses- that he would give over trying to train us into something so unlike our natural selves: but once again, we are asking not for more love but for less . . . To ask that God's love should be content with us as we are is to ask that God should cease to be God. (CS Lewis)"
- h. We are to do this together, by gathering regularly and encouraging one another toward this calling: Hebrews 10:23-25

2. **His Passion Drives Our Motive:** “since/because Christ suffered for you.” (huper).
 - a. We should constantly ask ourselves. “What is driving and motivating us?”
 - b. He suffered **for you** . . . substitutionary, sacrificial, satisfactory (Isaiah 53)
 - i. How shall we now live? For Him who gave Himself for us (By His Stripes, We are Healed). This requires a deep and regular reminder of :
 1. What He did for us: God comes down from glory to rescue
 2. Why He did this for us: For our redemption, and God’s Glory
 3. How He did this for us: Extreme suffering and atonement
 4. The benefits we now have received in union with Him
 - a. Forgiveness: counted as righteous; adopted by God
 - b. Transformation: a new life, love, and power inside of us
 - c. Future Glory: a future inheritance, kept in heaven
 - ii. He is a MOTIVE for you as He was a suffering Savior for you:
 1. This is inspiring and energizing: personalize it
 2. The link between potential and productivity is passion
 - c. He absorbs and takes into his own body the penalty and curse of sin
 - i. So we can then give our body - offer up our body in sacrifice
 - ii. That we would live just as He died
 - iii. Again, it is not only finding identity and security in who we ARE, but also in HOW we became who we are - Moving me; Melting Me
 - d. We get His righteousness . . . credits to us - so that my debts and current provisions are met fully in Christ (He makes us living stones; precious; choice; acceptable . . . etc.)
 - i. He took what we were, so that we could become what He is (2 Cor. 5:21)
 - ii. While we were enemies, while we were sinners . . . alienated and hostile
 - iii. Redemption and Adoption: The traitor is forgiven, welcomed to the table, and given the family name. .(JI Packer)
 - e. Romans 7: Wretched Man that I am; who shall save me from the body of this death . .
 - f. Paul also went through this same growth process
 - i. Gal. 2:20; 6:14
 - ii. 2 Corinthians 5: His love now *compels, pressing* us from all sides, angles - to love God and people fervently

“Joy is what God gives, not what we work up . . . a common but futile strategy for achieving joy is trying to eliminate things that hurt: get rid of pain by numbing the nerve ends, get rid of insecurity by eliminating risks, get rid of disappointments by depersonalizing your relationships. And then try to lighten the boredom of such a life by buying joy in the form of vacations and entertainment.” (E. Peterson)

3. **His Passion Details our Methods**, *leaving you an example. .describes our model*
 - a. Not my ideas or thoughts or ways, but His - counterintuitive and against the natural bend . . not self; lean NOT on your own understanding
 - i. I need a new template and model to trace . . a new language to learn
 - b. Jesus placed Himself *up under the Father's word and will*, therefore submitted while doing right to Judas, Jews, Pilate, Herod
 - i. PETER'S FLAWED METHODS - you have satanic thinking: Peter constantly rebukes the word - Peter has learned that his natural way is not God's way - totally failed . .
 1. John 13: I have left you an example of the blessing of service
 2. Elders, be an example (1 Peter 5)
 3. Paul: follow my example . .
 - c. So, this is *how* we do what we do; whatever it may be . .
 - i. A new way of operating; a new framework and Paradigm.
 - ii. Sketch for letters - *hupo grapho* - trace this over and over - handwriting- now we do unconsciously - our method of operating . .
 - d. This is what it looks like: in your situation, follow these steps, for His name's sake: The Steps of Jesus:
 1. Purity: though he had power to destroy, no guile or malice
 2. Humility: silently, like a lamb, though a lion; thy will be done
 3. Graciously: Father, forgive them
 4. Dependency: into thy hands I commit - vengeance is mine says the Lord
 - e. Template: the cornerstone has been set in. Every post finds its place from this
 - i. No sin; no deceit; no insult . . no reviling; How can I possibly do this?
 - ii. This holy speech comes from a divine heart . .Prov. 4:23
 - f. Imitation is the highest form of flattery, and it's also forming us:
 - i. We become like who or what we worship.
 - ii. A new nature in us as this habit, fundamentals
 - g. Watch Him in the Word - for every look at self, take ten at Christ.
 - h. This is the parabola of Phil. 2
 - i. He committed no sin . . holiness; being set apart: Holiness
 - ii. No deceit in his mouth: amazed by his speech: Purity of Speech
 - iii. While being reviled . . . do not trade insult for insult: No Retaliation
 - iv. No threats . .did not adopt the ways of the evil accuser of the brethren: we are aware of his crafty ways and devices . .Satanic
 - i. Therefore, keep entrusting . . .Romans 12: heap burning coals; vengeance is mine says the Lord - keep THIS promise before you

“Jesus does not suffer to prevent your suffering. He bears a cross not so that you may escape it but that you may endure it.” (C.S. Lewis)

4. **His Passion Determines Our Measure-** the true measure of all things is here
 - a. That we might die . . . to live - - Because I live, you too shall live
 - i. Peter has in mind the glory which follows the suffering . . Resurrection
 - ii. Two places mentioned: Matt. 16:11;; Luke 24:26;46
 - b. We were continually straying . . our rebellious waywardness . .
 - i. But now have returned: Home; Healed . .
 - ii. To the Shepherd and Guardian of our souls . . .by His grace, we have returned:
 - iii. By His stripes, we are healed
 1. We were fractured; straying . . . now healed
 - a. With God
 - b. With Self
 - c. With Others“men quarreling with men quarreling with God.”
 - i. By the brokenness and woundedness of Christ
 2. To be united and rejoined to Him - to grow up into the full measure of Christ! (Ephesians 4)
 3. Complete in Christ . .
 - c. Humanistic Measures: rich enough, smart enough . . Pride is competitive
 - i. How we measure ourselves
 - ii. How we measure time
 - iii. How we measure others
 - d. We do not see ourselves correctly: esp when measuring against other humans:
 - e. (v.20) **FAVOR!** Praise of the Praise worthy!: (1 Peter 5:6ff)
 - f. God is pleased! He has glorified Jesus above all - vindicated, risen - how do we judge and assess things? Does this and will this find Favor with God . .
 - i. What did the Father do? Raised Him up . . like Joseph in Genesis 50
 - ii. What about all the mistreatment, victimization
 1. HOW DO WE MEASURE AND CELEBRATE OUR GROWTH
 2. What do we anticipate in the future as a result of the suffering?
 3. See 1 Peter 5:6-11
 - g. Keep entrusting to the one who judges righteously
 - i. All knowing
 - ii. All seeing
 - iii. God will get it right: Righteous Judgement is His - He is the good and true King and Sovereign - Hold to his promises
 - iv. Romans 12
 1. I do not have to win now; respond now; conquer now . .
 2. Just humbly trust and obey, empowered by Psalm 27:13-14
 - h. What is in my future? Praise, Glory, and Honor from God
 - i. The ultimate pleasure and measure: Well done, good and faithful servant

"If there is meaning in life at all, then there must be a meaning in suffering. Suffering is an ineradicable part of life, even as fate and death. Without suffering and death human life cannot be complete. The way in which a man accepts his fate and all the suffering it entails, the way in which he takes up his cross, gives him ample opportunity-even under the most difficult circumstances- to add deeper meaning to his life. It may remain brave, dignified and unselfish. Or in the bitter fight for self-preservation he may forget his human dignity and become no more than an animal. Here lies the chance for man either to make use of or to forgo the opportunities of attaining the moral values that a difficult situation may afford him. And this decides whether he is worthy of his sufferings or not."
(Viktor Frankl)

Elisabeth Elliot: "Sometimes life is so difficult, you can only do the next (right) thing; just do the next right thing, and God will meet you there."

From an old English parsonage down by the sea
There came in the twilight a message to me;
Its quaint Saxon legend, deeply engraven,
Hath, it seems to me, teaching from Heaven.
And on through the doors the quiet words ring
Like a low inspiration: "DO THE NEXT THING."
Many a questioning, many a fear,
Many a doubt, hath its quieting here.
Moment by moment, let down from Heaven,
Time, opportunity, and guidance are given.
Fear not tomorrows, child of the King,
Trust them with Jesus, *do the next thing*
Do it immediately, do it with prayer;
Do it reliantly, casting all care;
Do it with reverence, tracing His hand
Who placed it before thee with earnest command.
Stayed on Omnipotence, safe 'neath His wing,
Leave all results, *do the next thing*.
Looking for Jesus, ever serener,
Working or suffering, be thy demeanor;
In His dear presence, the rest of His calm,
The light of His countenance be thy psalm,
Strong in His faithfulness, praise and sing.
Then, as He beckons thee, *do the next thing*.

