

A dramatic painting depicting a ship's deck during a storm. The scene is filled with figures in period clothing, some standing and some crouching, as they struggle against the waves. The ship's mast and rigging are visible, and a bright light breaks through the dark, stormy clouds, illuminating the scene. The overall mood is one of intense struggle and divine intervention.

1 Peter

Our Walk in the Storm

Background

- Author is Peter, from Rome (referred to as Babylon in 5:13)
- Readership is predominantly Gentile.
- They are living as Christians in a hostile pagan society.
- Christians were being persecuted ... but more was to come soon.
- Nero would become emperor next year.

Overview

- 1 Pet 1:3-12: Review of our redeemed state.
- 1 Pet 1:13-2:10 Our attitudes.
- 1 Pet 2:11-3:12 Our behavior.
- 1 Pet 3:13-4:19 Our suffering.
- 1 Pet 5:1-9 Our service.
- 1 Pet 5:10-11 Our Victory.

Our Redeemed State

- 1:3 **past**: *has caused us to be born again*
- 1:3-4 **future**: *to living hope ... and to obtain an inheritance that is imperishable, and undefiled and will not fade away.*
- 1:5 **present**: *who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed ...*

Our Redeemed State

- 1:6-7 Our suffering has a *purpose!* It will result in *praise and glory and honor!*
- Recall some past trial you had, and trusted God to deliver you.
- That trial is now over, and He did deliver you! That was the *past*.
- In the *future*, your having trusted in the Lord in that trial *will result in praise and glory and honor!*

Our Redeemed State

- 2 Cor 4:17 For *momentary light affliction* is producing for us an *eternal weight of glory, far beyond all comparison!*
- 2 Cor 2:9 *Eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, ... not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him.*
- Just wait and see what God has prepared for you!!

Our Redeemed State

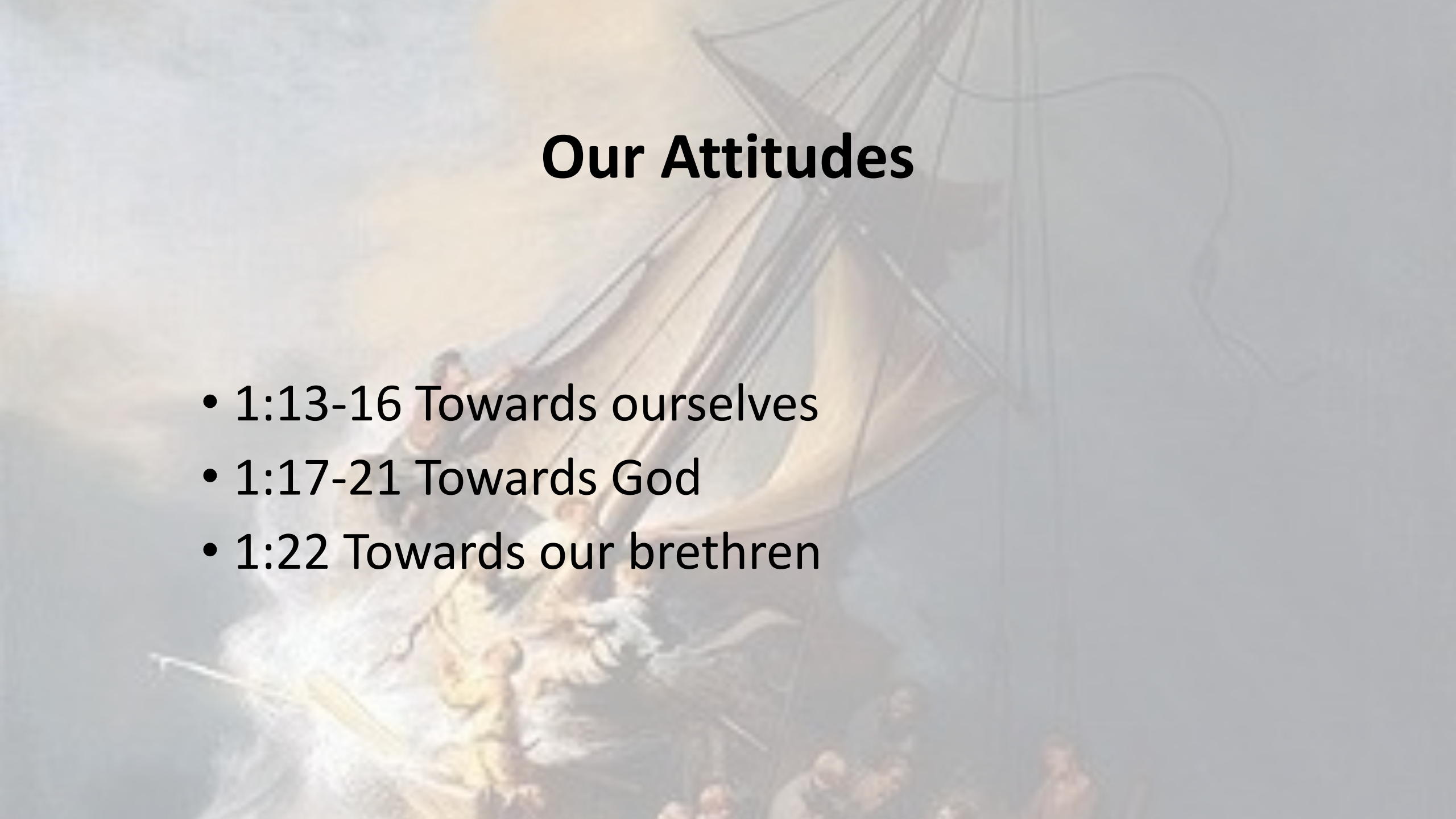
- 1:8 Peter glories in their love for Christ though they had never seen Him.
- Remember, Peter had seen Him! This is a special blessing for those who believe even though they have not seen Him.
- Remember Jesus said to Thomas in Jn 20:28-30 ... *Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed!*
- That's all of us!!

Our Redeemed State

- **Past:** We were born again!
- **Future:** We will be resurrected and obtain a pure, imperishable, and eternal inheritance!
- **Present:** We are protected!

Our Attitudes

- 1:13-16 Towards ourselves
- 1:17-21 Towards God
- 1:22 Towards our brethren





Our Attitudes

1:13-16 Toward ourselves – in Holiness

- Ready for action.
- Sober in spirit.
- Hope on our future Grace.
- Be Holy as He is Holy



Our Attitudes

1:17-21 Towards God – in Reverence

- Put away our former evil behavior.
- Put on new Holy behavior. This is behavior of those **who are set apart for God**.
- 1:17-21 In **fear (i.e. reverence)** remembering the cost of our salvation!
- Though our salvation is **free to us**, it was **very costly for God**!



Our Attitudes

1:22 Towards Brethren – In Love

- Sincere love.
- Fervent love.
- Why? Because we have been born again of an imperishable seed, the living and abiding Word of God.
- Our first birth, the fleshly birth, is like grass which withers.
- But our second birth, the spiritual birth, is from the Word of God, which abides forever.



Our Attitudes

1:23-25 Motivation

- We are born of a new seed!
- We are born of the Word of God!
- John 1:13 *who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*
- We are born of the will of God!



Our Behavior

2:1-3 Long for the Word

- Put away all evil: **malice, guile, hypocrisy, envy, slander.**
- Peter recognizes the evil within us. **We are to put it away, to deny its desires.**
- Instead, drink of the **pure milk of the Word.**
- We put away our evil desires by the **Word of God.**



Our Behavior

2:1-3 Long for the Word

- Rom 7:18 *For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of good is not.*
- While we are in the flesh, we will continue to battle our fleshly nature.
- But we must not give in to it!
- We put away our evil desires by the Word of God.



Our Behavior

2:1-3 Long for the Word

- Practical suggestion: memorize scripture. When you have fears or temptations, recite scripture that you have memorized.
- The Word of God enables us to face trials, resist temptation and walk pleasing to God.
- A favorite of mine is Psalm 91.



Our Behavior

2:4-10 As Holy People of God

- In Matt 4:18, Jesus called Peter *Cephas*, meaning *stone*.
- Here Peter calls Jesus the *Living Stone*.
- And Peter says, we are to come to Him as *living stones*
- 2:9 stones used to build a **royal priesthood**, a **holy nation**, a **people for God's own possession**.



Our Behavior

2:11-3:12 In a Godly Walk

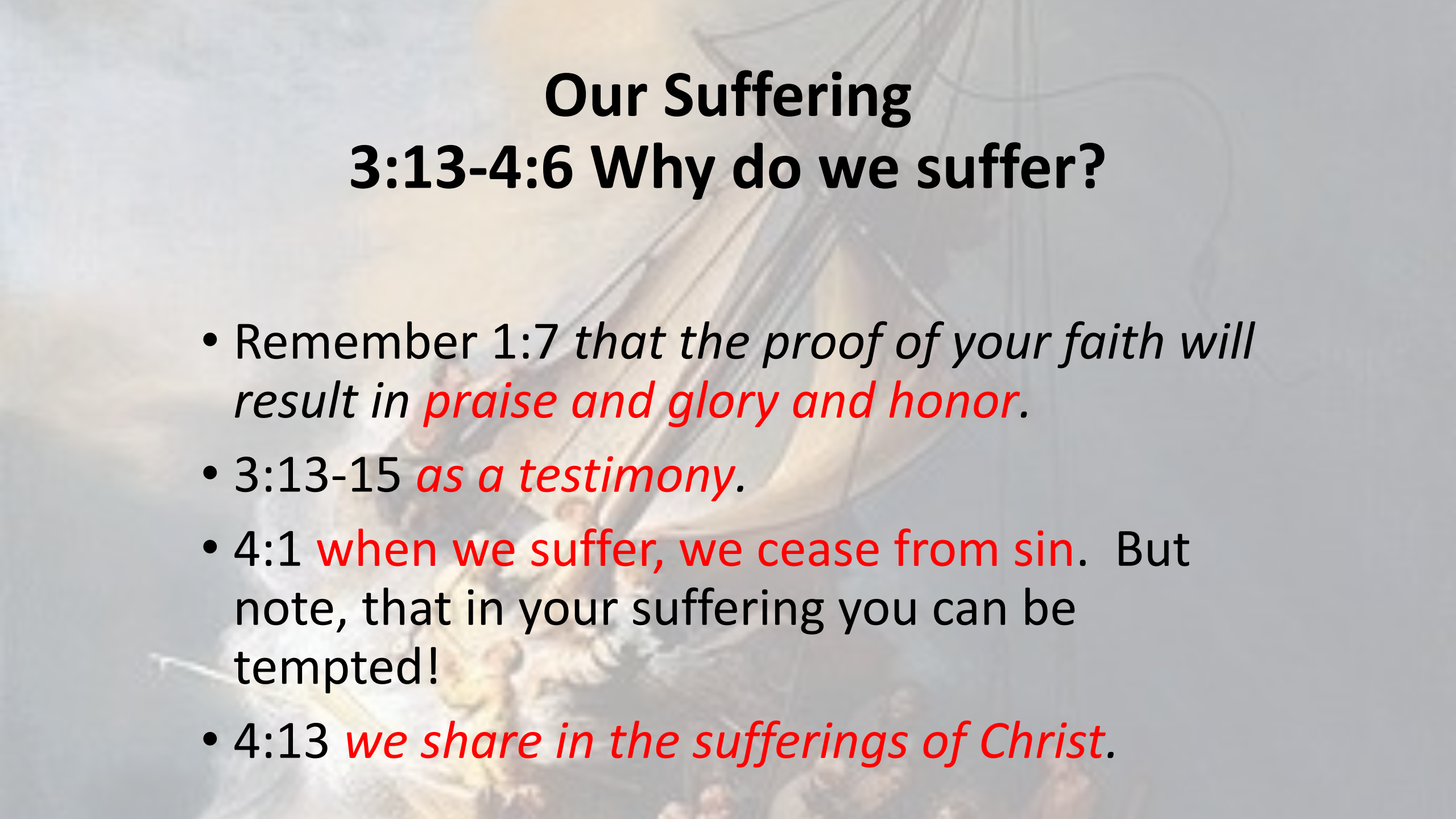
- How do we walk Godly in an ungodly world?
- 2:11-12: Fleshly lusts, **abstain**! It is a fact of life that we still have these fleshly lusts. But we can deny them!
- 2:13-17: Government, **obey**! Pay all your taxes!!
- 2:18-25: Servants/Masters
- 3:1-7: Husbands/Wives



Our Behavior

2:11-3:12 In a Godly Walk

- 3:8-12: Sumup: harmony, sympathy, kindly, humbly.
- Not returning evil for evil, insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead to those who hurt us.
- This is not the world's way! But it is our way!
- Because God is watching over us Ps 34:15 *For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and His ears attend to their prayer ...*



Our Suffering

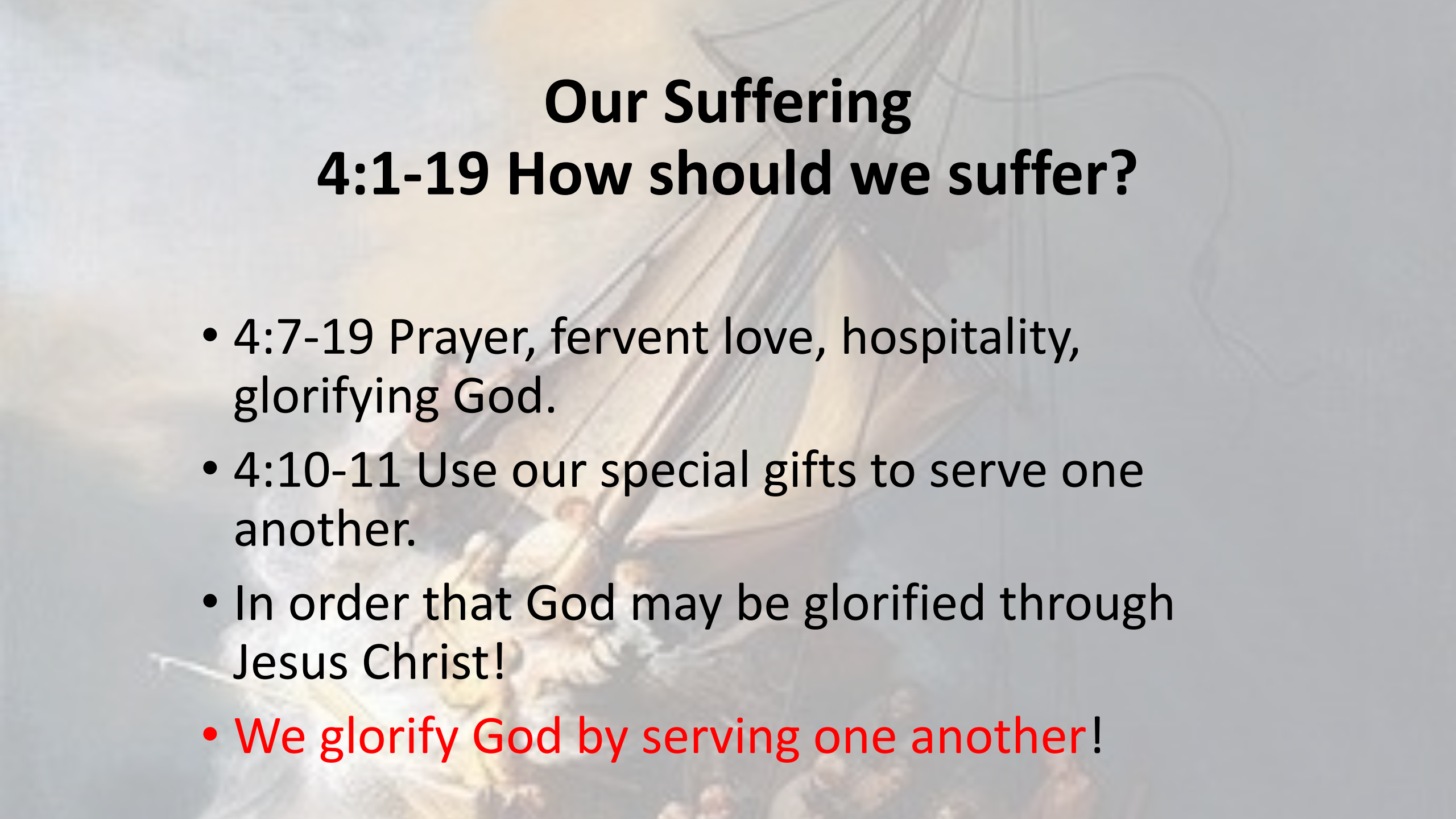
3:13-4:6 Why do we suffer?

- Remember 1:7 *that the proof of your faith will result in **praise and glory and honor**.*
- 3:13-15 ***as a testimony**.*
- 4:1 **when we suffer, we cease from sin**. But note, that in your suffering you can be tempted!
- 4:13 ***we share in the sufferings of Christ**.*

Our Suffering

4:1-19 How should we suffer?

- 4:1-6 *Arm yourselves also with the same purpose ...*
- In our suffering we **choose** to trust in God, and to abstain from sin.
- Job could have chosen to *curse God and die*, as his wife suggested in Job 2:9.
- Job 19:25-26 *As for me, my Redeemer lives!*
He **chose** to trust God



Our Suffering

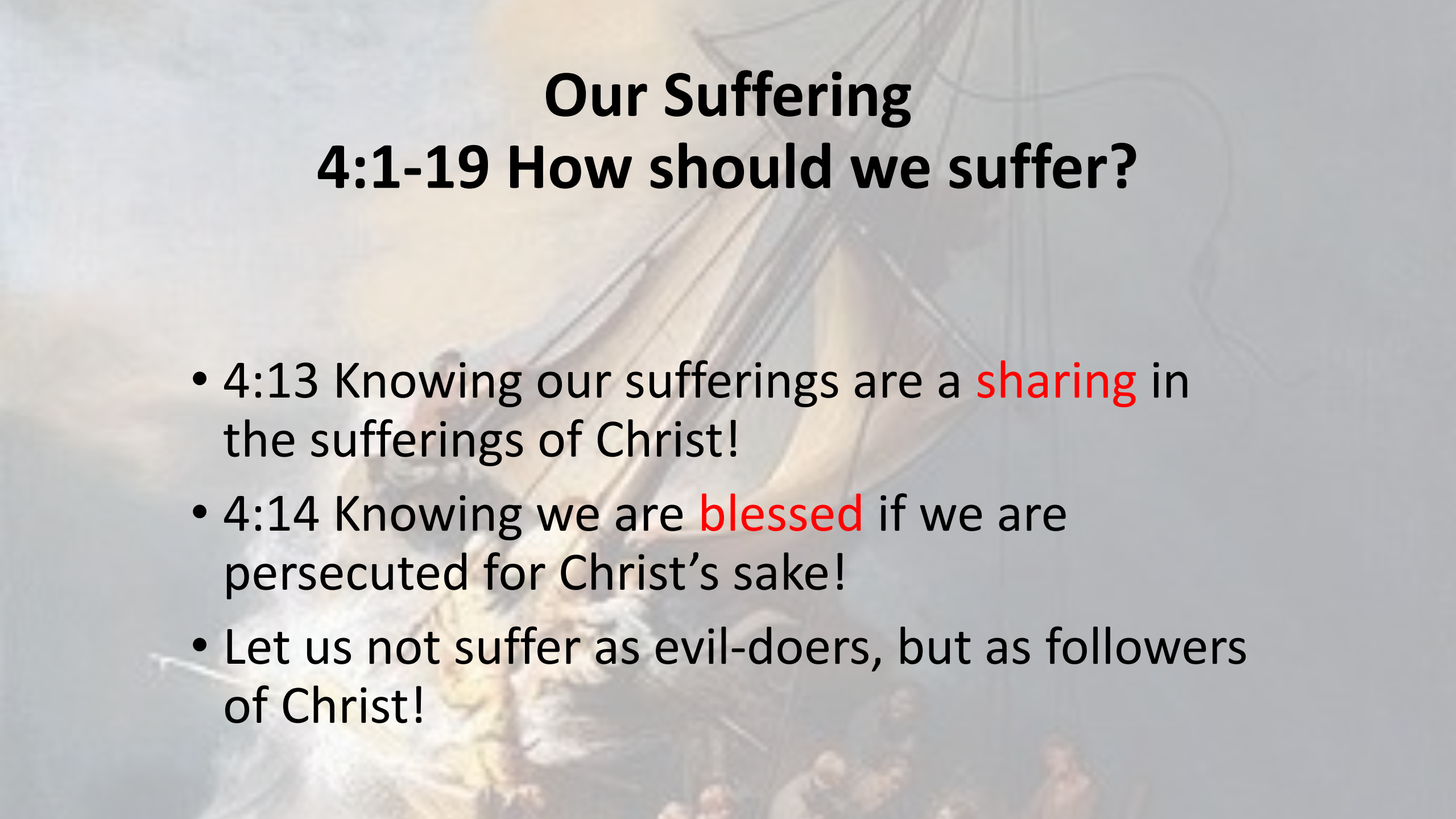
4:1-19 How should we suffer?

- 4:7-19 Prayer, fervent love, hospitality, glorifying God.
- 4:10-11 Use our special gifts to serve one another.
- In order that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ!
- We glorify God by serving one another!

Our Suffering

4:1-19 How should we suffer?

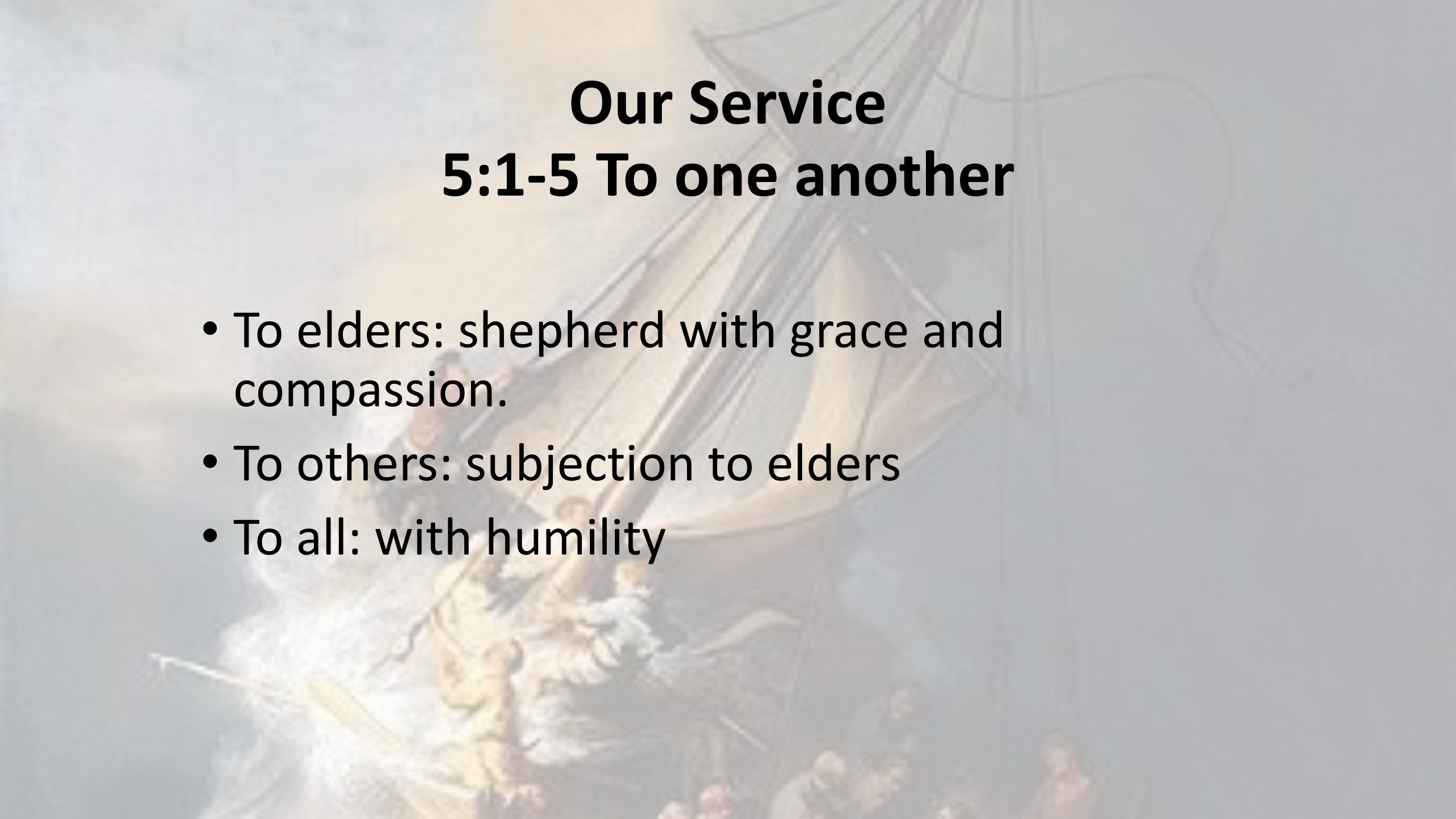
- 4:12-19 *do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you ...*
- Little did Peter know that the *very next year*, Nero would literally burn some of these believers!
- Matt 5:10 *Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven...*
- We glorify God by trusting Him even when we are persecuted for His sake!



Our Suffering

4:1-19 How should we suffer?

- 4:13 Knowing our sufferings are a **sharing** in the sufferings of Christ!
- 4:14 Knowing we are **blessed** if we are persecuted for Christ's sake!
- Let us not suffer as evil-doers, but as followers of Christ!



Our Service

5:1-5 To one another

- To elders: shepherd with grace and compassion.
- To others: subjection to elders
- To all: with humility

Our Service

5:6-19 In Humility and Strength

- 1 Pet 5:6: *Humble yourselves ...*
- 1 Pet 5:9: *resist him (Satan) ...*
- **First we humble ourselves, and then we can resist him.**
- James 4:7 *Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*
- Same principle ... first we humble ourselves, and then we resist the devil.

5:10-11 Our Victory!

- 1 Pet 5:10-11 After suffering for a little while God will **give you victory!**
- 1 Pet 1:7 and in the future **Glory!**
- So trust in the Lord, serve Him with gladness, suffer with perseverance!
- This is our **Living Hope!**

Summary

- In our past, we were redeemed!
- Our attitudes to ourselves in holiness, to God in reverential fear, and to our brethren in love.
- Our behavior in holiness.
- Our present suffering.
- Our service to one another and to God.
- Our future victory.