

# Suffering Then Glory

Proclamation Life Groups; 1 Peter 3:13-22; Week of Sunday, May 20, 2018; Steve Thiel

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**Sermon Theme:** By faith in Christ, who suffered once for sins and was raised to eternal glory, we have the privilege to suffer for righteousness' sake, by defending the truth and living out the gospel, while looking forward to our eternal reward in glory.

## **I. Instructions on Suffering then Glory – Read 1 Peter 3:13-17**

- A. How do you think you would respond to persecution? In what ways might you fall short?
- B. What sort of opposition were the Christians in Peter's day facing (3:14-16)?
- C. What do you think it means to "*honor [or sanctify] Christ the Lord as holy in your hearts?*"
- D. What do you think it looks like to defend the gospel? What does it look like to give people a reason for the hope that is in you? Can you think of any examples from the New Testament?
- E. How would you like to grow in being able to defend the gospel? Is it having a greater clarity on the message, a deeper conviction of its truthfulness, or a growing confidence to speak?
- F. How do these verses challenge you to not fear man but to fear God?

## **II. Illustration of Suffering then Glory – Read 1 Peter 3:18-22**

- A. According to verse 18, what did Christ accomplish through His suffering on the cross?
- B. What do you think it means that Jesus "*went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison?* (v.19)"
- C. In the context of suffering, why is it helpful to be given the example of Noah? Can you make a list of the similarities between Noah and the believers that Peter is writing to in this letter?
- D. Why do you think Peter used baptism as an example in verse 21? How is it helpful?
- E. What have you learned from this passage to help you face persecution with confidence? How do you need to grow in being a witness for the gospel in the context of suffering?
- F. Why do you think it's so critical for Christians to keep reminding themselves, not only of the gospel of grace, but of the promise of eternal reward and the reality of a future resurrection?