

Suffering in Light of Eternal Glory

Proclamation Life Groups; 1 Peter 4:12-19; Week of Sunday, June 3, 2018; Steve Thiel

Sermon Theme: The Lord Jesus suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God. In light of that reality, believers rejoice as they suffer for the name of Christ, living out the gospel of grace, looking forward to the eternal reward of glory.

I. Command Given: Rejoice in Suffering – Read 1 Peter 4:12-14

- A. What advice would you give to someone about to enter a marathon or climb a mountain? How might the advice that Peter gives Christians be similar to that advice?
- B. What are some reasons why believers should not be surprised when they suffer for the faith? According to (v.12), what is God's purpose of bringing trials into a believer's life?
- C. On what grounds can Peter encourage suffering Christians to rejoice (4:13)?
- D. What are some other passages in the bible that encourage you to consider the sufferings of this life in light of the glory of eternity? Which verse is the most encouraging to you and why?
- E. How do you currently respond to suffering? Are you prone to worry, be anxious, be fearful, or grumble? How would you like to grow in rejoicing in the midst of suffering?

II. Command Clarified: Suffer for Doing Good – Read 1 Peter 4:15-16

- A. According to (v.15), what kind of suffering brings shame to Christians and Christianity? As you think through your own life, where are you most likely to dishonor Christ?
- B. For what reasons should the Christian be unashamed to suffer?
- C. In what situations are you fearful to identify yourself as a follower of Christ? Are there certain topics of conversation or issues that you purposely avoid because of fear of persecution?

III. Command Summarized: Eternal Perspective – Read 1 Peter 4:17-19

- A. How does (v.17) and (v.18) compare and contrast the eternal perspective for believers and unbelievers? In Peter's day, what could believers expect to endure by way of judgment?
- B. How does thinking about the eternal suffering of unbelievers when they die motivate you to share the gospel? Are there particular people in your life that you want to share with?
- C. How does (v.19) simplify our responsibility as believers? How do you think you're doing with trusting God? What areas of life do you struggle the most to trust Him with?