

“Anchored” *The Book of 1 Peter*
Class Notes
Session 24

1 Peter 4.6-7 The reversals of death and life. It is the Gospel that gives life to the spiritually dead.

A contextual question...Who are the “spiritually dead?” Likely, Peter is describing believers who were spiritually dead *before* conversion.

And...like Jesus...died (martyred?) with the world’s hostility and rejection.

But now...Enjoy life in heaven!

“Verse 6 has spirited a great discussion. Are the “dead” those to whom Christ preached after his crucifixion (3:19) the spiritually dead who are now alive, or the Christians of Peter’s churches who have already died? The vast majority of commentators today argue that Peter is referring to Christians in Asia Minor who heard the gospel while alive but are now physically dead. Those who hear the gospel and respond, *even if they are killed for their faith*, will be vindicated ultimately before God.”¹

(v.7): Christians are to live in continual expectation of Jesus’ return...at any time!

1 Peter 4.8-11 Peter now issues the commands of the “end-times.”

Most Christians in the first generation expected Jesus’ return in their lifetime.

However here...Peter is likely referring to the “New Age” that Jesus inaugurated through His life, death, and resurrection.

The “End” ... τέλος (*telos*)... “Purpose” “Goal” Salvation history has culminated in Jesus Christ!

Hebrews 1.1-2

“The reason the end is near is that the ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ have inaugurated the last days... In the New Testament the theme that the end of history is imminent is often sounded...All the following exhortations in this paragraph draw an inference from the coming of the end...Because the end is near, believers should live in the following way.”²

How *should* believers (you and I) live...

Self-Controlled and Sober-minded... An honest and proper view of one’s self. This leads us to pray effectively.

Love earnestly ...Sincere... ἀγάπη (*agapè*)... “Love” (Sacrificial/volitional)

Show hospitality... Hospitality demonstrates a sincere love! Welcoming others into homes...meeting needs...a place of safety and acceptance.

Serve one another... Through exercising the gifts that God has given to the believer.

Romans 12.6-7 Romans 13.11-12

¹ C.A. Beetham and N.L. Erickson, Eds. *The NIV Application Commentary on the Bible* (Zondervan Academic, 2004).

² T.R. Schreiner. *1, 2 Peter, Jude* (Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003).

The overall motivation is guided by Stewardship vs. Ownership...Who is truly in control?

(v.11): As disciples...All of our lives, love, and service are motivated by our desire that God be glorified!

v.11 is a *doxology*... a common way to close a section of a letter.

“Christ suffered in the flesh and became sin (2Co 5:21) in our stead. He now calls us to live the new life He has given us as stewards of His gifts. Everything we have, even our lives, are used to benefit the Church and our neighbor. Through our words and actions, we bring Christ to a world that is dead in sin so that some may come alive in Christ, even as we have been made alive.”³

1 Peter 4.12-13 By way of encouragement...Peter makes a very clear, unequivocal statement...Suffering will happen!

Christians should not be frightened, shook up, and/or caught off guard. We must be prepared.

There are three, general kinds of suffering in life that we often experience...

Common Suffering...Situations that happens because we are human beings...We live in a fallen world. Our bodies wear out.

“Consequence” Suffering...Suffering caused by choices and selfish decisions that I (and/or others) make.

Christian Suffering...When we suffer for being a believer in Jesus. When we suffer for the right things...*Redemptive* suffering.

Jesus is the best example of this. Did He suffer because He did wrong or because He did right? He suffered because He did right!

John 15.20

The challenge... What do we *do* with our sufferings? All suffering can be used for our good and for our betterment.

(v.13): The words “rejoice” and “suffering” do not seem to go together!

It is the choice to rejoice. How? In our text we can see two reasons...

- Suffering Draws us Closer to God. *Matthew 11.28*
- Suffering Reveals God in Our Lives. *Romans 8.16-18*

(Martin Luther): “God lays a cross on all believers in order that they may taste and prove the power of God—the power which they have taken hold of through faith”⁴

Going Forward...

- How can your suffering draw you closer to Jesus? Are you able to sense God’s hand in your suffering?

³ *The Lutheran Study Bible* (Concordia, 2009).

⁴ Martin Luther. *Luther’s Works* AE 30:127).