



***“He Himself bore our sins
in His body on the cross,
so that we might die to sin
and live to righteousness”
(1 Peter 2:24)***

I read these words and am so thankful for them, but quite often I find myself relying too heavily on what HE DID for me and forget about the verses previous to these words, or the words following.

I can accept that He died for me, a sinner in need. I can even accept the fact that because of that my life should be different, I should be living in His righteousness. But it's the way in which He expects me to do that that I sometimes balk at. Especially when in my economy things seem “unfair”. I like “fair”, I like reasonable, I like things to be “right”, equal, and just. I really like it when things go along with good, old, common sense. And when things don't line up in those categories I tend to get a bit ruffled. So when I read the words above in its context of surrounding words, I felt a certain twinge of conviction, okay, I heard the Spirit YELLING into my soul that's it's not my righteousness I'm to live up to, but His.

Take a look at the verse in its context:

“For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God. For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls” (1 Peter 2:19-25 nasb)

I'm convicted that each moment my mind should be set on Him and His example. Reminded that I can, and should, expect suffering unjustly. He is God and He did, so why wouldn't I? The question is, will I bear up? And will I “endure with patience”?

Unfair Grace

The phrase in verse 19 and 20, “this finds favor with God” actually means to put grace into action. In other words, when we suffer unjustly, and we respond as Christ did, we are putting the grace given to us into action toward others.

So, how are we doing? Are we extending to others the grace that was given to us? That's my prayer today for myself, and for you. We are indeed “continually straying like sheep,” but I pray our eyes would not be on the unfair circumstances around us, but rather on the “Shepherd and Guardian of our souls,” who extended such grace to us when we ourselves were so unworthy.

Father, how often we stray, and how gracious You are. Help us today Lord to live not only as grace receivers but grace givers, for as surely as the sun rises and sets there will be unfair things in our lives. May our circumstances only lead us to cling to You more, and to follow Christ's example in every way. To You be the glory. Amen.