



Unit .28

Session .03

Showing Christ In Times of Trials

Scripture



1 Peter 1:3-9; 2:11-17

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead **4** and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. **5** You are being guarded by God's power through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** You rejoice in this, even though now for a short time, if necessary, you suffer grief in various trials **7** so that the proven character of your faith—more valuable than gold which, though perishable, is refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **8** Though you have not seen him, you love him; though not seeing him now, you believe in him, and you rejoice with inexpressible and glorious joy, **9** because you are receiving the goal of your faith,

the salvation of your souls. ... **11** Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and exiles to abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul. **12** Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that when they slander you as evildoers, they will observe your good works and will glorify God on the day he visits. **13** Submit to every human authority because of the Lord, whether to the emperor as the supreme authority **14** or to governors as those sent out by him to punish those who do what is evil and to praise those who do what is good. **15** For it is God's will that you silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing good. **16** Submit as free people, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but as God's slaves. **17** Honor everyone. Love the brothers and sisters. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

What is your normal pattern in responding to trials when they enter your life?

How should Christ's resurrection change how we relate to suffering?



99 Essential Doctrines

Life After Death

The Bible teaches that when a Christian dies, he or she immediately is with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8; Luke 23:43). This is what some people call an intermediate state, given that the final state for believers takes place at the future resurrection (Rev. 6:10-11). For those who are not in Christ, life after death results in being separated from Christ in a state of suffering, even though future judgment remains (Luke 16:19-31).

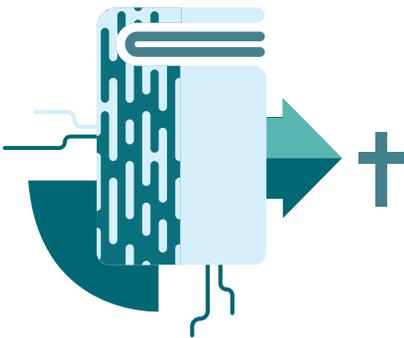
Main Point

When we honor God through trials, the difference Jesus makes in our lives is made clear.

In what ways can we guard ourselves from idolizing worldly treasures?

How can you keep your focus on Jesus, rather than your circumstances, when you are walking through suffering?

Why is it sometimes hard to submit to earthly authorities? Is there ever a time we should not?



Christ Connection

God's people are called to endure life's trials with hope, joy, and honor so that even those who wrong us might see the goodness of Christ through us. When we live in this way, we follow the pattern of Jesus who for the joy that lay before Him, endured the cross (Heb. 12:2). Because of Jesus' obedience to the Father on the cross, we who wronged Him but now trust in Him have been saved.

Our Mission



Head

When have you faced a trial and failed miserably? How did this affect others' view of you?

Explain a time when God used your faithfulness through a difficult time to allow others to see Him at work in your life.



Heart

In your own words, describe hope.

What helps you look forward to good things in your future?



Hands

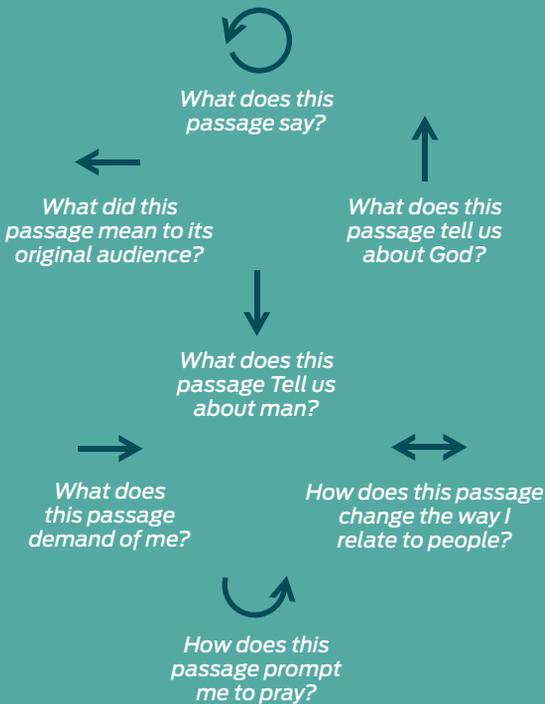
How has someone ministered to you in a meaningful way when you've faced difficult times?

Who do you know that is facing a trial? What will you do to serve and encourage them this week?

Daily Devotions



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day 1

1 Peter 1:1-5

In a world where those who are “chosen” and “selected” often reap the benefits of preferential treatment and due honor, it may seem odd that Peter associates “those who are chosen” with “those who are living as exiles.” The word exile refers to someone who doesn’t belong—strangers living away from their homeland. How is it that those who are esteemed are also marginalized? In order to answer this question, we must properly identify where the Christian’s home really is.

A Christian’s true homeland is in the coming kingdom with Christ. It makes sense then that these Christians, whom God chose in Christ to be a part of His family, were considered exiles on earth. Earth, as it exists during this age, wasn’t their home, and these Christians who were dispersed due to persecution understood this very clearly, as they were hated and rejected because of it.

If we choose to treat this world as our home, we may receive our preferential treatment and due honor here. However, when we live for Christ, we will be rejected by the world, but we will receive praise, glory, and honor when Christ is revealed to all (1 Pet. 1:7).

How do you treat this current world as your home? What is God calling you to change?

1 Peter 1:6-12

Have you ever experienced the impact of a car accident, strong turbulence on a plane, or some moment in which you felt as if your life was flashing before your eyes? These moments are sobering and, at times, terrifying. But interestingly enough, though they can feel like forever, they often pass by before we know it.

The pain of trials and heartache can also feel never-ending when we are in the middle of it. However, Peter refers to the various trials we endure in this lifetime to be “short” in the big picture. That’s because his perspective of “time” is relative to our eternal future, a state, by definition, that never comes to an end. This does not discount the pain we go through, but instead it gives us a proper lens through which we can interpret our experiences—to encourage our hearts when we feel like the pain will last forever. Take heart, trouble won’t last, but Christ will.

What would change in your life if you viewed hardships from an eternal perspective?

1 Peter 1:13-25

In the face of God’s holiness, we as people have always been confronted with the reminder that we’re not holy—we’ve been tainted by sin (Ex. 33:18-20; 2 Sam. 6:6-8). Yet, the God who is holy was gracious enough to send His Son—who is holy!—into human history to bridge the gap between unholy people and the holy God. Our holy Savior paid our sin penalty by dying a criminal’s death so that we could share in His holiness having been made right by His blood.

Understanding this helps us to better grasp these verses that we read. We are called to follow God’s example of holiness intentionally in the ways that we live, seeking, though we are foreigners in this sinful world, to be totally blameless. In living this way, we please the Lord (Heb. 12:14).

How should the weight of holiness affect our behavior? Words? Choices? Desires?

1 Peter 2:1-17

We are called to “rid ourselves of all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all slander” (v. 1). How, when we live in a sinful world and we struggle with the flesh, is it possible for us to be totally rid of these things? It is solely by the power of God’s Holy Spirit working in us through God’s Word which enable us to fight sin and love God.

We cannot possibly live the life as God has called us to as His “chosen race, holy priesthood and holy nation” (1 Pet. 2:9) if we refuse to abide in His Word. It is by His Word that we are able to “grow up into our salvation” (2:2). Let the faithfulness of His Word compel us to desire the pure spiritual nourishment available to us that we would grow up in maturity.

Why is it important to spend intentional time in God’s Word on a daily basis?

1 Peter 2:18-3:7

The topic of submission in our culture is often met with reluctance, or even criticism. For many, it is seen as an old-fashioned concept and with no place in today’s culture. However, Jesus, who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited, lived in submission to His Father (Phil. 2:5-7). In radical obedience, He laid down His life for the sake of people who would never do the same in return, even if they could. Jesus—the only good person who ever suffered—never committed sin, refused to insult those who insulted Him, and refrained from threatening His persecutors (1 Pet. 2:22-23).

This is the example of humble obedience and submission we are called to follow. If we are not humble enough to follow in the footsteps of our Savior’s humiliation and suffering, then we should never expect to follow Christ in His glory.

How should Christ’s humility and willingness to suffer affect your willingness to do the same?