First Peter Series - A Living Hope

“Surprised By Joy”

1 Peter 4:12-19

2.13.11

Introduction:
A. I’m using the title today to convey the counter-intuitive relationship between _______ and _______.
B. In this final section, Peter addressed a special kind of persecution called the “________” trial or “________” trial.
C. Peter likely wrote this letter just before ________ persecution began.

I. The _____________ (4:12)
A. Peter exhorts his readers to avoid being _________ by the painful trial.
B. Christians, today, are the most ________ group in the world.

II. The _____________ (4:13)
A. Peter’s readers are told to ________ in their sufferings.
B. Persecution gives an opportunity to ___________ Jesus’ sufferings.

III. The _____________ (4:14-16)
A. The important condition is _____________.
B. Suffering for the name of Christ will be _________, but suffering for sinful behavior is deserving of _________.

IV. The _____________ (4:17-19)
A. The consideration is that we will someday have to ________ to God.
B. It is much better for believers to endure suffering _______, than to later bear ________ torment.

Conclusion: Lessons on Suffering (Heb. 12:2-3)
A. Christians ought not be ________ if they suffer because of their faith.
B. Christians ought to ________ the opportunity to share in the sufferings of Christ.
C. Suffering for Jesus should be understood as a ________ to prepare us for God’s final judgment.
D. Christians ought to be able to transcend their present pain by reflecting on the transcendent glory that awaits God’s people.
E. When facing suffering in the name of Christ, Christians must continue to do good ________ as an expression of our trust.