

15. Remembering what we have seen about Jesus' suffering (v15) what encouragement does verse 22 also give us when we are suffering?

16. Having noted some of the difficult parts of these verses now run through and summarise what they tell us about Christ.

Pray

Once again this passage reminds us of those who suffer for their faith and it would be good to remember such people in prayer again. Pray also for the work of organisations which seek to help persecuted Christians.

Pray that when opportunities arise we would be able to give a reason for the hope that is in us.

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1 Peter

Week 7 : Suffering for Righteousness

1 Peter 3.13-22



The Good Life

Read 1 Peter 3.10-17 (*we also read v10-12 in study 6*)

1. Make a note of how many times the word “good” occurs in these verses and what each instance tells us to do.

2. Sometimes we suffer for righteousness' sake (v14) but what good are we told comes through this? How does this compare with what Jesus said in Matthew 5.10-12?

3. What did we see about this in study 2 when we looked at 1 Pt 1.6-8 and James 1.2-4?

4. What do you think it means to honour Christ the Lord as holy in your hearts? (v15) Can this also help us to not be afraid or troubled when facing suffering? (v14)

5. Verse 15 is not telling us we must be experts at defending our faith (though that would be good) but able to give a reason for the hope in us. What exactly is that hope, and what reason would you give?

6. Remembering that the background is of persecution, why is gentleness and respect (v15) important when giving a defence in such situations?

7. Acts records a couple of times when Paul gave a “defence” (the same word is used in Acts 24.10, 25.8 as 1 Pet 3.15). From what you remember would you say that he did it with gentleness and respect? How did he lose his cool in Acts 23.2-5?

8. Do you think you could give such a defence if you were in court, a prison cell or faced with a hostile crowd?

Christ’s Suffering & Victory

Read 1 Peter 3.18-22

Verses 19 and 20 are difficult to make sense of and there have been many different and sometimes fanciful interpretations. It can be interesting to speculate but we will focus on the key point, which is clear, about what we have obtained because of Christ’s suffering.

9. How were the eight people saved in the days of Noah?

10. What does it mean to say that baptism “corresponds to” the flood? (Verse 21 actually says baptism is the “antitype” which makes the flood the “type”. You can think of the type being a rough sketch and the antitype the finished drawing.)

11. We are told that “baptism ... saves you” but how does verse 21 say it is done? (Notice the “through”/“by”.)

12. Those in the ark were saved from God’s wrath displayed in the flood. What does Romans 5.9 say ultimately saves us from the wrath of God?

13. How does Romans 6.4-5 show that these (including baptism) go together?

14. Some teach that water baptism alone is enough to save a person, which is not what the Bible says. But in reacting against this we can miss the importance the Bible gives to baptism. Look at some of the following and note what they say about the part baptism plays in the ordinary way in which people are saved.

Mark 16:15-16

John 3:3-5

Acts 2.38

Acts 22.16

Galatians 3.25-27

Colossians 2.11-13

Titus 3.4-5 (though this is less clear)

Matthew 28:18-20