



Grace Life Church
of Dallas

The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God

1 Peter

Hope & Instruction for

Suffering Saints

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One thing is clear for the Christian life

The Christian life is one of suffering (trials, tribulations, persecution, spiritual warfare)

- Peter assures us of suffering
- Lovingly guides us through it

Over the past year have you seen a change in your approach and response to suffering?

- Are you thinking biblically regarding your suffering?
- Are you glorifying God more in your suffering?

Chapter 1

Remember he is writing to *elect exiles of the dispersion* (physically and spiritually) v1-2

First thing Peter writes to these suffering saints:

- V3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*
 - *According to His great mercy* (Our God is merciful)
 - *He caused us to be born again* (Pointing to grace in election producing humility)
 - *To a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*
 - *To an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, & unfading, kept in heaven for you*

At this point the struggling saint may feel like “This is great, but I am not even sure I will make it to receive this inheritance”

- V5 *who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last times*
- V6 *In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials*
 - *Genuineness of faith* (stronger, purer faith)

Chapter 1

V10 Our salvation is so amazing: “*the prophets..searched and inquired carefully ..v12 things which angels long to look*”

- Peter is highlighting our amazing salvation (keeping our eyes on gospel)

In light of our glorious gospel, how should we live?

- V14 *do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance*
- V15 *but has He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct*
 - V18-19 *knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers not with perishable things such as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ*
- V22 *love one another earnestly from a pure heart*
 - V23 *since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but imperishable*
 - *Through the living and abiding word of God*

Chapter 2

How else should we live in light of our glorious gospel?

V2 *Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation , if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good*

- Have you tasted that the Lord is good (regeneration)?
- Evidenced by a longing for pure spiritual milk (Word)

Don't forget: v9 *you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession*

- *That you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light*
- *V11 As sojourners and exiles..abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against the soul*
- *V12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable...they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation*

Chapter 2

Now Peter speaks specifically about our “conduct” which is a platform to proclaim the gospel

- *V13 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution* (government)
- *V18 Be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good & gentle but also to the unjust*
- *V21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you leaving you an example so that you might follow in His steps*
 - We have been called to suffer along with Christ
 - Christ endured suffering by v23 *continually entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly* (even to death v24)
 - The cross (like our trials/tribulations) at the surface does not look like “good”
 - Sin is present, appears out of control, immense suffering, injustice, appears to end tragically
 - But out of the greatest evil came the greatest good for mankind

Chapter 3

Continuing with our conduct and how we should live:

- *V1 wives be submissive to your own husbands*
 - *Let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit*
- *V7 husbands live with your wives in an understanding way....so that your prayers may not be hindered*
- *V8 All of you have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind*
- *V17 It is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil*
 - Christ suffered, according to God's will, for doing good
 - God was glorified in this, and He will be glorified in our suffering if we follow Christ example

Chapter 4

Living in the now with the end in mind

- V7 *The end of all things is at hand, therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers*
 - *Keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins v8*
 - *Show hospitality to one another without grumbling v9*
 - *As each has received a gift use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's grace v10*
- V12 *Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening*
 - *But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings v13*
 - *Let those who suffer according to God's will, entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good v19*

Chapter 5

Exhortation to the elders

- *Shepherd the flock of God that is among you v2*
 - *Exercising oversight*
 - *Not under compulsion, but willingly as God would have you*
 - *Not for shameful gain, but eagerly*
 - *Not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock*
- *God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble v5*
 - *V6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God*
 - *V7 casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you*
- *Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour*
 - *V8 Be sober-minded & watchful*
 - *V9 Resist him, firm in your faith*
 - *V10 The God of all grace will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, & establish you*