

Pilgrims who Suffer: Looking for an Unseen Resurrection

John Bunyan in jail from 1660-1672 During this time his thoughts were on his daughter, Mary. She was blind and 10 years old when he was put in jail. "The parting with my Wife and poor children hath often been to me in this place as the pulling of the Flesh from my bones...not only because I am somewhat too fond of these great Mercies, but also because I...often brought to my mind the many hardships, miseries and wants that my poor Family was like to meet with should I be taken from them, especially my poor blind child, who lay nearer my heart than all I had besides; Oh the thoughts of the hardship my Blind one might go under, would break my heart to pieces. [Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners, p. 123]

Pilgrims in Christ are called to share in Christ's sufferings.

Romans 8:16-18

Corinthians 1:8-9

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Philippians 1:27-30

Hebrews 11:32-28

Pilgrims in Christ share in Christ's sufferings in order to share Christ's vindication.

Why do Christian pilgrim's suffer? We share in Christ's sufferings to share in his vindication. He would have us share in all the good things that he has from the Father (1 Tim. 3:16, Rom 8:17). To share in his vindication requires us to share in his sufferings.

Westminster Shorter Catechism Question 38: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?
Answer: At the resurrection, believers being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.

1 Peter a treatise for pilgrims who suffer with Christ

We often think that we have to live in a hostile country to suffer with Christ. Peter shows us otherwise. He shows us that suffering is staying under the will and rule of Christ as revealed by his Word in everyplace we live, the most ordinary of places.

READ Chapter 1

THEN 2:1-12 "sojourners and pilgrims"

THEN 2:12-17 suffering as citizens (*doing good though maligned*)

THEN 2:18-25 suffering as slaves to masters (*working hard though mistreated*)

THEN 3:1-7 suffering as spouses (*giving graciously though not receiving what we want*)

THEN 5:1-4 suffering in the local church (*patiently giving and loving other sinners*)