

May 5, 2024

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

1 Peter 3:13-17

“Stand Up & Stand Out”
“Suffering According to God’s Will – Part 1”

- I. Foundation: God’s Provision of Salvation (1:1-12)
- II. Exhortation: Our Response to So Great a Salvation (1:13-5:14)
 - A. Sanctification (1:13-2:12)
 - B. Submission (2:11-3:12)
 - C. **Suffering (3:13-4:19)**

So what?

Discussion & Application:

1. What is the connection between **submission** to authority and trust in the **sovereignty** of God? What are your favorite passages of Scripture on God's sovereignty? How does understanding God's sovereignty help you when you are tempted to be afraid, worried, or anxious?
2. Share stories from this past week about how you controlled your tongue, abstained from fleshly reactions, and **blessed** people who were mistreating you.
3. The Bible speaks often about "**suffering**." Sermons have been delivered with titles like, "The Ministry of Suffering." 1 Peter 3:17 talks about God sometimes willing it for us to suffer for doing what is right. What are some ways that suffering is a **ministry** in our lives? What are some ways that suffering could lead to us having a ministry in the lives of others? In what way(s) can our suffering be **for Jesus' sake**? (See Phil. 1:29-30) In what way can our suffering be **for the sake of other believers**? (See Col. 1:24) How does knowing these things help our **attitude** toward suffering?
4. Read **Phil. 3:7-11**. Why would Paul want to know **the fellowship of Jesus' sufferings**?
5. What does it mean to be "**zealous for what is good**"? Are you radically devoted to and enthusiastic about living a righteous life that is morally excellent? What are some ways we might **suffer** if we live that way in an increasingly evil society? If we suffer like that, in what way are we **blessed**?
6. In verse 14, Peter quotes **Is. 8:12-13**. What are we not supposed to **fear**? What are some things that the world fears / dreads? What or Who are we supposed to fear? How does that help us overcome worldly fears?
7. What are some practical ways we can **sanctify Christ as Lord in our hearts**? What does that look like when we are being persecuted and are suffering? How might living that way compel people to ask us to give an account for the hope that is in us? What **defense** would you give if someone asked you about that?
8. What is **gentleness**? What does gentleness look / sound like when we are answering the very people who are persecuting us about our hope? How does **reverence** apply here? Reverence for who / what? How might gentleness and reverence impact people who are slandering us and our gospel message?
9. How might living this way help us keep a **good conscience** when we are slandered and reviled? How will that cause our attackers to be put to shame? It often seems that those who attack Christians and Christianity are winning. When is it that they will be put to shame? How does knowing that impact our attitude toward them? What should we desire more than anything for them?
10. Believers are not immune to doing things wrong (in God's eyes). But sometimes doing wrong things in God's eyes leads to worldly rewards in this life (see **Psalm 73**). What will ultimately happen to people who are rewarded on earth for doing evil things?
11. What is the perspective Peter wants us to have in verse 17? How do we maintain that perspective in a world that mocks us for doing what is good and righteous?
12. The phrase, "**the right side of history**," is being used frequently in moral debates. What is Peter saying about being on the right side of history? How can we know for sure that we are on the right side of history?
13. **Memorize 1 Peter 3:13-17**. Meditate on the practical ways you will apply these truths this week.