

Discussion & Application:

1. Last week we focused on fervent love that forgives fellow believers, meets needs without complaining, and serves energetically in the local church. Peter says that is the way to deal with suffering unjustly for our faith: Stand Up & Stand Out together, no matter what the cost. Share some practical ways you applied these principles last week and/or intend to this coming week.
2. The “Prosperity Gospel” (“Word of Faith” movement) is one of the fastest growing so-called Christian movements in the world. It teaches that “health and wealth” are the automatic divine right of all Bible-believing Christians, since the Atonement of Christ includes not just the removal of sin, but also the removal of sickness and poverty. Does 1 Peter support or contradict those claims?
3. What are the benefits of suffering in this life? How might it increase our assurance of eternal salvation?
4. List the things that will change in your life when you see Jesus face-to-face. What will happen to you physically, spiritually, mentally, socially, and emotionally? How might focusing on those things help you joyfully endure even intense suffering now?
5. Why does Peter connect being reviled for the name of Christ with the blessing of having the Spirit of glory and of God resting on you? Do you often think about the Holy Spirit resting on you and dwelling in you? How might that help when experiencing extreme persecution?
6. What does the word “Christian” mean? Was it originally a positive or negative name? Why would Christians be accused of being a murderer, thief, evildoer, or troublesome meddler? How might one be tempted to do those things when experiencing unjust suffering and seeing other believers martyred? What should we do instead?
7. Romans 8:1 says there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Does that mean we won’t experience judgment? What judgment of God might we experience in this life? What judgment will we experience after we die? How does our judgment differ from that of those who don’t know Jesus? Why does Peter bring this up in a discussion on how to handle unjust suffering?
8. What does it mean to entrust our souls to God? What examples of this do we have in the New Testament? How does knowing we will be eternally in the hands of God help us now when it appears like we are in the hands of sinful men?
9. How does looking to the future help you say no to sin and say yes to righteousness right now?
10. Discuss the following quote by Garrett Kell, *“You will never regret resisting sin. You will always regret giving in. I have never looked back on obedience with regret, nor on compromise with gratitude. Seeing God is both our eternal destiny and our daily delight.”*
11. If you participated in Pastor Paul’s **90-day-challenge to read the whole Bible**, please email him at: pbrown@tbbfchurch.org to let him know when you are finished. Then consider reading through the Book of Revelation at least 5 times, write down questions you have, and send them to Pastor Paul.
12. **Memorize 1 Peter 4:12-19.**