

1 Peter 4:1-6

Living for Christ is Not Easy But It is Well Worth It

General Principle v1

When Suffering as a Christian Look to Christ

Therefore (in light of how Christ faced unfair suffering and how God the Father used that suffering to produce superlative good/eternal blessings)...

...arm yourself with the same purpose/mindset (to keep on trusting/obeying the LORD regardless of what kind of suffering much come our way, see 2:23)

Sometimes, God delivers us from difficulties/tribulation

He calms our chaos (negates/removes the negative circumstances)

Other times, God delivers us through difficulties/tribulation

He calms us (so we can walk through the negative circumstances)

“s/he who has suffered (like Christ because of her/his obedience to God, 2:17) “has ceased from sin” That is: believers who suffer because of fidelity to the Lord have ceased from sin: not absolutely/to the point of sinless perfection but in ways such that the world, “the average Joe or Josephine” can tell we are “different (see v2-4).”

Specific Principle v2

Even in the Midst of Suffering PreDecide Daily to Live for the One Who Died for You

Dedicate yourself to live the rest of your life on Earth not according to the lusts (strong desires) of humanity/the crowd but according to the will of God. Good News: every believer here CAN become a world-class person regardless of where you are today

Purposeful Perspective v3-5

Live Now in Light of Our Past, Our Present and Our Future

The Past: before you came to faith you looked a lot like the world/culture around you, but now as a believer you should stop redefining and/or rationalizing serious moral error v3

The Present: as you do v3, don't be surprised when those you used to “run with” will misunderstand you and malign you now that you are a Christian living out God's truth v4

The Future: be sobered by the fact that those who reject Christ, Christians and the C-hurch will face a moral reckoning with God. God's justice isn't pretty but is preceded by God's grace.

Speaking of Past, Present and Future

Are You Familiar with the Three Tenses/Phases of Salvation?

Past Tense Salvation: the believer was delivered from the penalty of sin

Present Tense Salvation: the believer is being delivered from the power of sin

Future Tense Salvation: the believer will be delivered from the presence of sin

Primary Principle v6

The Priority of Eternity/Heaven Over Time/Earth

Believers who have died as Christian martyrs-experiencing the ultimate in unfair suffering were “judged according to men” but now are living in the spirit “according to will of God.”

Take This To Heart

Living for Christ Is Not Easy (It Comes with a Price) But It is Well Worth It

Choices Christians Must Make Daily

The Savior over Self

Christ over the Crowd

The Word over the World

The Significant over the Superficial

The Permanent over the Popular

The Difficult/Long-Term over the Quick/Easy

The “Problem” With Making the Right Choices Is:

It Comes with a Price: Right Choices in These Areas

Often Brings Scorn and Discrimination