

Main Passage: 1 Peter 3:13–4:6**Theological Theme**

Even when we suffer for our faith, we can have hope because an eternity with God awaits us, and nothing can take us out of His hand.

Introduction

?(?) When have you (or someone you know) stood up for the sake of the gospel, when it was unpopular or hard?

?(?) Where are some places we see people stand up for the right (but hard) things in Scripture?

1. Suffering for Doing Good (1 Peter 3:13-17)

This prediction of suffering is relevant in different ways for believers in different parts of the world and throughout history. This was especially relevant to Peter's original audience, who was facing a kind of suffering we can hardly imagine living through in the United States today. They were literally attacked and rejected for their faith, as many around the world are today.

?(?) What does it mean to suffer for righteousness? (v. 14)

?(?) What does it mean to regard Christ as holy in our hearts? Why is that important? (v. 15) How does that impact our willingness to suffer?

?(?) What is the difference between suffering for good rather than suffering for evil?

2. Christ Also Suffered (1 Peter 3:18-22)

Peter went on to describe Christ's suffering. Jesus hasn't asked us to endure anything He didn't first endure to a greater degree. Further, since Christ was willing to suffer for us, we should be willing to suffer for Him, too.

- ① Why is it important that Jesus is our example in suffering?
- ① How has Christ suffered similarly to His people? How has He suffered differently?
- ① How might a person put too much stock in their baptism? How might a person put too little stock in this practice?

3. Following Christ (1 Peter 4:1-6)

Jesus was humble and obedient in suffering, even when His circumstances were outside what He would have chosen (Mark 14:36). Jesus knew the road before Him when He prayed in the garden. Physical suffering was in His future, and He prayed that God would take it away, but ultimately that God's will would be done, and then submitted to it. Whatever suffering is in store for us in this life, we should approach it with humble obedience.

- ① The header of this section in the CSB Study Bible is "Following Christ." What did Peter teach about following Christ in this passage?
- ① How did Peter describe those who do not follow Christ? How can this help us assess our own hearts and lives?
- ① How does living obediently for Jesus lead us to live differently with others around us?

Conclusion

- ① If you were asked to explain your faith today, what would you say? How does regarding Christ as holy affect the way we live each day?
- ① How can we support one another as we face suffering for Jesus's sake?
- ① How might faithfully suffering for Jesus give us opportunity to tell others about Him?