

I PETER – GRACE, HOPE, AND LIVING WHOLE PART V
I PETER 4
SEPTEMBER 5-6, 2020

INTRODUCTION

- The last few months have been tough to navigate everyone's edgy, anxious and confused, everyone but Jesus.
- Last week we talked about how we can live in hope even in suffering by looking ahead and being set apart and committed to God.
- Many can't reconcile suffering with faith.
- The word "suffer" occurs eleven times in this one letter alone.
- But Peter said we have a "Living Hope"
- I Peter 4:12-14, "...do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; ¹³but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you."

I. ARMED TO SUFFER

- I Peter 4:1-5 - Arm yourself with the same purpose or mind." *Which mind?* The mind of Christ.
- There is a world of difference between the redemptive mind set of Jesus Christ, giving you power, and the grit-your-teeth, positive-thinking mind set of people.

- The mind set of Jesus has to do with living through the tough stuff life brings.
- In the face of the difficult things all of us face, the Bible says you need to arm yourself with a certain mind set.
- Vs. 7 - It is a mind that is set on the long term goal – eternity, not the here and now.
- Vss. 2-5 - A mind set on the Spirit, not the flesh.

II. THE OUTCOME OF SUFFERING...GROWTH

- Vs. 7 - If our mind is set on Him we grow.
- We grow in prayer
- Vs. 8 - We grow in love for others.
- Vss. 9-10 - We grow in servicing others.
- Vs. 11 - We grow in our words and our serving in the power of the Spirit.

III. NO SURPRISES SO GET READY

- Vss. 12-14 - "Do not be surprised..." This is not punishment, it is a test.
- Philippians 1:29, "For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake."
- Philippians 3:10, "That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings..."
- Vss. 15-19 - The goal is eternity don't lose sight of it. Judgement is real and God is just.
- Where does this attitude come from? It is about justice and it was born in the heart of God.
- Vs. 17 - God is just and He will carry out justice.

CLOSE

- Psalm 66:10, "For you have tried us, O God; You have refined us as silver is refined."
- Mal.3:3 "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver"