

October 2011

“Sojourning and Suffering” Chp **1**  
For the Joy That Is Before Us”

# **1 Peter**



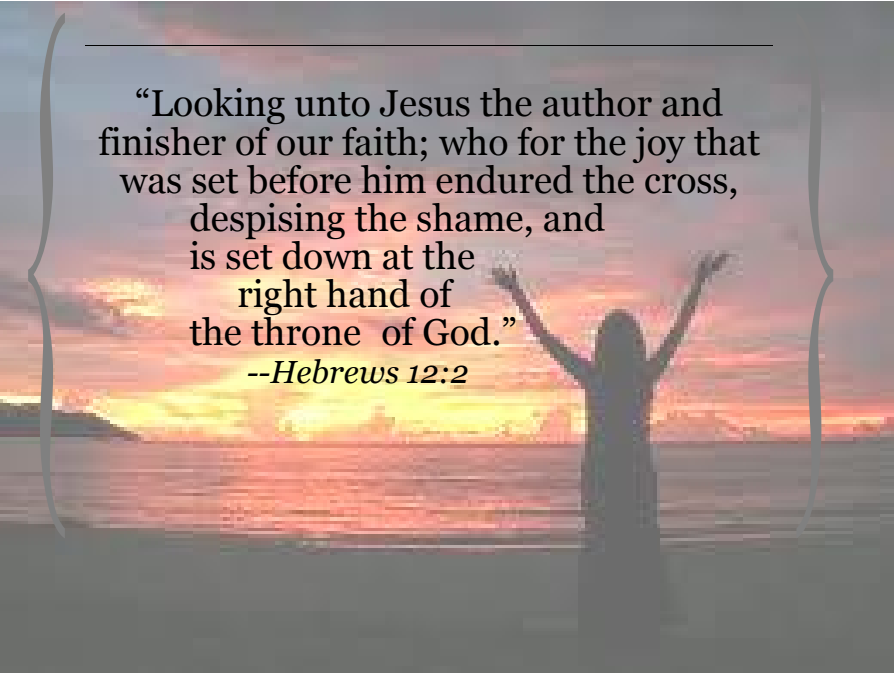
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October 2011 Pulpit Series

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From the Pulpit Ministry at Christ E Free Church of  
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“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

--Hebrews 12:2

“Sojourning in Suffering: For the Joy that is Before Us”

## “The People, The Place, The Experience”

*1 Peter 1:1-2*

**October 2, 2011**

**1 Peter 1:1-2**

\* *Resource Book: “The Privilege of Persecution” - Carl Mohler, David Hegg (www.opendoorsusa.org)*

### INTRO

**1 Peter 1:1-2** Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, (2) according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus

Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

## **I The People**

\* The People of 1 Peter are normal everyday Christians just like us, though many of their experiences may be different.

### **A. Peter the Author**

Peter was one of the original 12 disciples. He was not always a SuperStar Christian.

#### **1. Peter the Person**

His name was Simon, but in Mat.16:18 - Jesus changed his name to Peter – Rock

When this man attempted to walk on the water - it was Simon  
When he rebuked Jesus for speaking of his death – it was Simon  
After the arrest of Jesus, when he denied knowing Christ—it was Simon

But when he preaches in the book of Acts, - it's Peter, the Rock.

When he writes his Epistles of 1 & 2 Peter – it is Peter, the Rock doing the writing.

Peter was one of us – not a SuperStar Evangelist like Paul -not a SuperStar leader Moses -not a SuperStar of courage like Joshua.

Peter was not someone of Superstar Christian status - but a far more down to earth, regular person like me and like you.

He was one of us -- *but he was radically transformed* --.

#### **2. Peter the Apostle**

Peter was one of the original 12 disciples.

Disciple = learner      Apostle = one who is sent

Disciple = general      Apostle = specific

When it comes to identifying himself, he refers to himself as an apostle of Jesus Christ.

Apostle = One who is sent

Called and Appointed and Sent with a purpose

The first 11 chapters of the book of Acts are focused on the ministry of the Holy Spirit through Peter.

## The Recipients

### B. Christians of the “Diaspora”

#### 1. Early Believers

a. They are the **Elect** of God – the chosen ones - now, no longer a term used for the Jews but also for the church.

b. There are **Exiles** of the dispersion –

**Exiles** = aliens = Strangers = Pilgrims = Sojourners

i.e. belonging nowhere, no home (earthly), no place to call their own, like the Jews had.

**Dispersion** = Scattered = Sown = The Diaspora

In Acts 1:8, Jesus states that the disciples will be His witnesses, in Jerusalem, and all Judaea, in Samaria and to the uttermost part of the earth. And yet for a while they remained in Jerusalem.

Then in Acts 8:1, the persecution of the church moved into full swing and the believers were “scattered throughout” the area, into other parts of the existing world. They were sown by the hand of God, out of their home area in the direction of the world who so desperately needed to hear their message. And as they were sown out, fleeing for their lives, they were sowing the gospel of Jesus Christ as they went.

Thus the word of God and the message of Christ spread – as the missionaries spread.

***And the message that was sown, bore fruit.***

There is an old Pilgrim Hymn ---**This world is not my home.**

<p>“This world is not my home I'm just a passing through My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue The angels beckon me from heaven's open door <u>And I can't feel at home in this world anymore</u> Oh Lord you know I have no friend like you</p>
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## Sojourning and Suffering...for the joy that is before us

If heaven's not my home then Lord what will I do  
The angels beckon me from heaven's open door  
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore”

The Early Believers were not Superstar Christians – they were just like us --*but persecuted* - .

One thing that Christians around the world agree on is that hardship and persecution result in purification.

### **We are praying for your persecution**

When I was in the former Soviet Union, I had opportunity to visit with the underground church – and I remember one brother in the Lord telling me through an interpreter that “the church in USSR was praying for persecution for the church in America”. This was not because they hate us, but because they have experienced first hand, the purifying work that persecution has on the church – they had experienced it and were praying for the same purifying work for the true church in America.

Historically God has used persecution to prune and purify His church. And perhaps we would not say that persecution is something to be sought – but it is ultimately something that should bring joy to the true believing Christian.

### **RESULT =====**

1 Peter 1:1 -- **Elect** - - *Chosen*

**a. According to the foreknowledge of God**

### **SPECIAL TOPIC: ELECTION**

Election is a wonderful doctrine. However, it is not a call to favoritism, but a call to be a channel, a tool or means of others' redemption! In the Old Testament the term was used primarily for service; in the New Testament it is used primarily for salvation which issues in service. The Bible never reconciles the seeming contradiction between God's sovereignty and mankind's free will, but affirms them both!

The key to this theological tension may be found in Eph. 1:4. Jesus is God's elect man and all are potentially elect in Him. Jesus is God's “yes” to fallen mankind's need. Ephesians 1:4 also helps clarify the issue by asserting that the goal of predestination is not heaven, but holiness.

We are often attracted to the benefits of the gospel and ignore the responsibilities! Be careful of asserting only your favorite doctrine or system of theology! [ *by Bob Utley* ]

“Foreknowledge” – literally – prognosis – to know before hand.... Foreknowledge of God tends to get us all messed up theologically. When we read of God choosing the children of Israel as His own people and most people don’t get too hung up over that. But when we read of God choosing in the NT – those who are believers in Jesus Christ – it tends to send us into a tizzy of theological controversy that we can’t quite recover from.

For some, God’s election according to his foreknowledge, refers to God knowing ahead of time, who would church Christ, and as a result of that, He chooses them or elects them.

For some the Foreknowledge of God, negates the free will of human beings – and in doing so, it removes things like convictions, repentance, trusting and any act of a persons inner being in choosing Christ.

Foreknowledge – refers not merely to the knowledge of God before hand, but it also refers to eternal purpose, it refers to relationship and not merely intellectual awareness.

#### **b. the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit**

Sanctifying work – Sanctification – to sanctify – to make holy - It refers to a purifying process, but also refers to being set apart, or being different.

Humanly speaking, we find it very difficult to reconcile God’s “*prognosis*” and man’s free will. Yet the Bible still refers to both as being part of His plan of salvation and spiritual growth.

The Early Believers were not Superstar Christians – they were just like us – *persecuted and purified*. --

## **2. Early persecution**

<p><b>Mat. 10:22</b> and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.</p>
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## *Sojourning and Suffering...for the joy that is before us*

**Act 1:8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

**Act 8:1** And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

"scattered throughout" – the Diaspora (Acts 8:1, 11:19)

Elect – Chosen                      Exiles – Strangers, Aliens, Pilgrims,  
Sojourners Dispersion – Scattering, dispersed, or *sown*.

*\* 70% of the worlds population lives in a country with high religious restrictions.*

## **II        The Place / Land**



### **A.        Bible Times then**

1.        **culture** – then, it was under Roman rule and authority. Some areas were open to the message of the gospel and others were closed and very antagonistic to the gospel.



2. **religion** – Paul’s 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey was to this area or Galatia – though he was prevented from preaching there by the “Spirit of Jesus” (Acts 16)

## **B. Modern Day Turkey**

1. **culture** – secular – “freedom of religion” but not allowed to proselytize or convert people from their faith to another faith.

### **Evangelizing in Istanbul**

While talking with 4 students at University of Istanbul, the conversation became quite heated. 2 were Muslim and 2 were Jews and as the argument grew, so did the crowd of people. And a man selling food in the square that day came up to me and told me to be very careful, that I was drawing a lot of attention. I asked him, “you aren’t going to tell on me are you?” He said, “Oh, no, you bring me much business”- and he gave me a free pepsi.

### **2. beliefs – Muslim**

In Eastern Europe in Istanbul, there is a bridge that spans a narrow body of water that connects the Sea of Marmara to the South, with the Black Sea to the North. That bridge is referred to as the Galata Bridge, because it reaches to the area of “Galatia”. On the West side you are in Europe, but walk across that bridge to the East side and you are in Asia – a place that was referred to in Bible times as the region of Galatia.

Today – due to the extreme Muslim beliefs, The Church of Galatia is oppressed, persecuted and very small.

If you share the gospel openly there today, you might end up like Paul and Peter did – *in prison*.

## **III The Experience**

\* The significant experiences for the early believers have been the resurrection of Christ and persecution.

**A. The Death and Resurrection of Jesus**

**1. the disciple's timidity** – After the arrest of Jesus, they feared and fled for their lives.

**2. their courage** – After the resurrection of Jesus, the disciples were strengthened and greatly encouraged.

\* The Resurrection of Christ brought new strength of faith and courage in ministry to the true followers of Jesus.

**B. The Persecution, Courage and Suffering**

**1. Their Transformation** – After the believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and courage, persecution began to break out. No doubt some may have fallen away from the faith. But for the true Spirit filled believers, persecution only fueled the fire of their courage.

**2. Their Reason** – Their faith was tested and tried by fire. Persecution is a process of forging of faith – from weak faith to a *Rock solid hope*.

Both Historically and Biblically, we know that persecution prunes and purifies the body of Christ church.

Persecution did not quench the fire of their faith – *it fueled it*.

**IV Their Present Standing 1:2**

\* Through the Dispersion, the believers were scattered (sown), they became witnesses unto the uttermost part of the earth, and the gospel message went *GLOBAL!*

**A. Elect / Chosen**

\* The focus of Peter's writing is not what he has done but what God Himself has done.

Elect was who the believers were and was a result of an act of God. Exiles was what happened to the believers because of their faith.

## Sojourning and Suffering...for the joy that is before us

1. Foreknowledge of God – refers to the act of God’s selecting the believers.

2. Sanctification of the Spirit – refers to the Holy Spirit of God setting them/us apart.

\* God selected them **on** purpose.

\* The Holy Spirit set them apart **for** a purpose.

### **B. The Purposes of God**

Purpose # 1. Unto obedience to God

Purpose # 2. for the sprinkling of Christ’s blood – redemption and holiness of life.

This is the purpose for those to whom Peter writes.

This is the purpose for us as believers today.

### **APPLY**

Our response....

Elect and Exiles, according to the foreknowledge of God and the Sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.

We enjoy hearing of the choosing of God and the foreknowledge of God and the work of the HS in our salvation.

Elect refers who they were.

Exiles refers to their experience of being scattered – having no home –being persecuted because of their faith...

*“because of the word of God the testimony of Jesus..”*

**1 Peter 1:1-2** Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, (2) according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

## Sojourning and Suffering...for the joy that is before us

Not only Elect according to the foreknowledge of God and the setting apart of the HS of God, but...

They are also Exiles – Pilgrims – Sojourners according to the foreknowledge of God and the setting apart of the HS ...

They were also Persecuted -according to the foreknowledge of God and the setting apart of the HS ...

They were Dispersed – Scattered – **Sown** – into their mission field – according to the foreknowledge of God and the setting apart of the HS ...

Through difficulty, hardship, trials and suffering and persecution, God's people were then, *as we are today*, scattered and sown throughout their mission field, in order to live and share the gospel as they went. It appears that was the reason for their scattering.

As we are **sown** by the hand of God through the avenue of persecution, ***we in turn sow*** the message of the gospel of Christ in the mission fields to which we land.

Historically, through hardship, persecution and suffering God has pruned and purified His people, as well as led His people into obedience and spread of the gospel.

### **This world is not my home I'm just a passing through**

My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue

The angels beckon me from heaven's open door

**And I can't feel at home in this world anymore**

*We each are Pilgrims and Sojourners, scattered and sown, by the hand of God and work of the Holy Spirit, through suffering and persecution to share faith and spread the gospel message.*

*All according to Gods' work in our lives.*

***...for the joy that is before us...***



# “Our Great Salvation”

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**October 9, 2011**

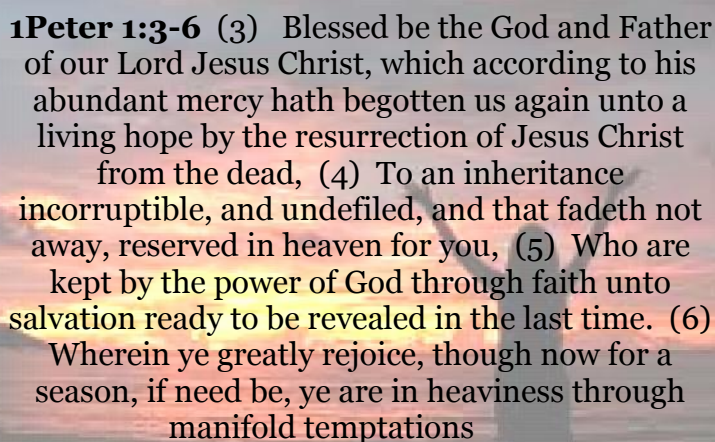
**1 Peter 1:3-6**

“Sojourning in Suffering: For the Joy that is Before Us”

**Subseries:** *“The Identity of True Believers”*

*\* Book: “The Privilege of Persecution” - Carl Mohler, David*

*Hegg*



**1Peter 1:3-6** (3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, (5) Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (6) Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations

**INTRO**  
Church

Children's

When I was a student, I struggled with learning lots of facts. If the teacher presented something I didn't quite understand, I got stuck. I would think, "That doesn't make sense" or "How did they come to that conclusion?" Or "Why is it not this way?" If I didn't get answers, then I got stuck and anything the teacher said after that, was like trying to pour water into a bucket with the lid on. Unanswered, questions became learning roadblocks.

It was very important for me to get my questions out of the way so I could learn.

As Peter writes, he is attempting to get any unanswered questions out of the way, so we can get on with learning about our Great Salvation.

Verses 1-2 were Peter's salutation to the scattered believers. Verses 3-25 is now Peter's introduction to the book and chapter 1 is the foundation for what they are to believe and how they are to live. Chapter 1 is Theology. And in his chapter on theology, Peter gives us several Promises of Assurance...

**Promise #1: Our Great Salvation has resulted in Our Living Hope (v3)**

*\* We have the assurance of forgiveness and eternity with Christ.*

Bless us = receiving something good from God.

Bless the Lord = giving praise to God

**A. Peter is Celebrating God's Praise Worthiness (3a,**

b

(3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Peter directs our attention to a little known, yet all important fact concerning our new birth.

**1. IT is dependent upon God's mercies (3b)**

according to = dependent upon, based on God's merciful character

**Tit 3:4-7** But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, (5) he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, (6) whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, (7) so that being

justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**2. Gods mercies are intended to draw us to Him in need, not anesthetize us to sin and suffering. (Rom. 2:4)**

**Rom 2:4** Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness (mercies) and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness (mercy) is meant to lead you to repentance?

**3. God's mercies are abundant, inhaustible and new for every occasion. (Lam. 3:22)**

Fallen sinful human nature, takes for granted and is often thankless

**Lam 3:22-23** The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; (23) they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

- every day has its own problems
- every day God gives unique tailor made mercies
- everyday we should look to God, recognize His mercies, realize our desperate need apart from those mercies and celebrate Him accordingly.

That is why Peter writes to celebrate God's praise worthiness.

**B. Peter also reminds us that Christ's life Translates into our life (3c)**

1. Christ's resurrection assures eternal life now and in the future.

**Joh 14:19** .. Because I live, you also will live.

**2. Christ's resurrection assures us of present newness of life (Rom.6:4)**

## Sojourning and Suffering...for the joy that is before us

1 Peter 1:3 = God has given us “new birth” into living hope. Not a coming hope, but one in existence NOW. It is living Hope NOW in this life and in the next.

**Rom 6:3-4** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (4) We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

This is a living hope that lives when we die. This living hope does not die with our body. It does not decay when our carcasses decay in the grave. It is eternal and it is Living – always living.

It is present, it is now, it is redeemed, transformed, it is newness of life – it is a Living Hope!

(( Our Salvation has resulted in a Living Hope

*\* We have the assurance of forgiveness and eternity with Christ.))*

Promises of Assurance...

### **Promise #2: Our Future is Certain (v4)**

*\* We have the assurance of an eternal inheritance and reward in eternity with Christ.*

(4) To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

### **A. Peter points out that we are Assured a Reward in Heaven (4a)**

Not payment for what we have done or payment for choosing Christ.

Inheritance and reward is in place – always there, always available. That inheritance and reward becomes part of our eternal assurance, when we repent from our sins and trust Christ’s sacrifice and shed blood as payment for our sins.

We might view it as God reassuring us that if you sacrifice and repent and trust Christ and even suffer as a Christian – ultimately



Sojourning and Suffering...for the joy that is before us

you loose nothing – eternally, you loose nothing! We loose nothing of lasting value – but we gain assurance of a rich, eternal inheritance and spiritual reward with Jesus Christ in eternity – Forever with Him!

But also...

**B. We are Assured an *unending* Reward in Heaven**

(4b)

Eternal – without chronological ending.

Infinite – without content depletion.

v4) Incorruptible – decaying, rusting, deteriorating

Undefiled – unsoiled, uncontaminated, free from impurity

Fadeth not away – Our inheritance is

**How hope is “guaranteed not to rust, bust, collect dust, - rip, tear or show wear – come apart at the seams or unravel around the edges.”**

It is Reserved, guarded, protected, prevented from escaping, and is preserved in heaven.

((*\* We have the assurance of an eternal inheritance and reward in eternity with Christ.*))

Promises of Assurance...

**Promise #3: Our Eternity is Secure (v5)**

*\* We have the assurance of an eternal inheritance and reward in eternity with Christ and with those promises, we are secure.*

(5) Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

I realize that there are those who believe we can lose our salvation. Some believe that if you sin, you forfeit your eternal inheritance. Some believe if fall into some sin, you have lost your salvation. Some people simply believe if you are more sinful than they are, you have lost your salvation.

## Sojourning and Suffering...for the joy that is before us

On the other hand, there are those who believe, “if we are saved then we can live as we like, because our eternity is *secure*”.

I believe people who **knowingly** live in sin of any kind may not be truly saved or if they are Christians, even though they don't live like it, they will be in for a total surprise when then enter into eternity and have to stand before God and give account for everything they have done in this life.

People who believe that because they are saved they can live anyway they want to, and people who believe you can lose your salvation, are both lacking in understanding of the scriptures.

Peter is clearly writing to communicate that true believers are eternally secure in Christ and that nothing can snatch us out of God's hand.

### **A. For one thing, we are secure in God's power (v5a)**

**Q:** Can God's power be overthrown? If “yes”, then none of us have any hope, - not one of us have any assurance, - we can trust God for **none** of His promises for now or eternity – Then we cannot believe in any Scripture that has anything to do with the future or end time events.

We might as well cut out Daniel and Revelation from the Bible. Cut out 1 Thessalonians 4, 1 Corinthians 15, And cancel our Wed. night Study on Israel and End times.

### **B. We are secure because we begin by faith, and we finish by faith (5b)**

We don't begin by good works, therefore we do not end with good works. Good works don't get us save, therefore good works do not keep us saved.

Just will live by faith.

1) They will actively be living by faith

2) they will live eternally because of their faith.

**Hab 2:4** "...the righteous shall live by his *faith*."

**Rom 1:16-17** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (17) For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by **faith**."

**Gal 3:11** Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by **faith**."

**Heb 10:38** "...but my righteous one shall live by **faith**, ..."

It is our faith in Jesus Christ that keeps us securely kept by God's Almighty power.

### **C. We are also secure in His Purpose (v5c)**

**Q:** Can God's Purposes be Thwarted? God's power cannot be overthrown, neither can His purposes be thwarted.

***"God's Plan Will Be Accomplished!"***

If it were so, then Peter could have written verses 3-25, then ended His assurance in our security with the disclaimer that, unless of course you stumble along the way and sin, then of course, you can just forget this chapter.

*((God's word gives us the assurance of an inheritance and reward in eternity with Christ, and with those promises, we are secure))*

Peter also gives us the Promise of Assurance that...

### **IV Our Trials will be Diverse (v6)**

\* Yet our joy will be Great.

(6) Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

This is not intended to dampen our spirits, but to inform us, so that we might be prepared and be mindful – not caught off guard when persecution and suffering comes.

*\* Expect such things. Be Prepared to Endure such things.*

**Heb. 12:9** looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who *for the joy that was set before him* endured the cross,

**A. We are promised joy (6a)**

Greatly rejoice – rejoice = “jump for joy”  
But also “much” “jump for joy”

**B. We are promised trials in joy (6c)**

Whether it is mistreatment or misunderstanding from by an unbelieving culture, we will face trials, yet in those trials will be joy.

**C. We are promised many yet temporary trials (6b)**

*\* Security in Christ, does not guarantee comfort in life.*

“for a while”, “for a season” = temporary

That is, not always, but for a time. This is part of the reality of the Christian faith. And yet we must not remain focused on the trial, but o the joy that is before us, that is the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and the fulfillment of our salvation at that time. (v5)

(( Our trials will be diverse, yet our joy will be great.))

**APPLY**

In our sojourning and suffering – there is a joy that is before us.  
We must remember:

- 1) our Living Hope
- 2) our Certain Future
- 3) our Secure Eternity
- 4) our trials with joy may be many.

All are crucial for a strong faith, a victorious Christian life and a fruitful ministry.



# **“Our Inexpressible Joy”**

**October 16, 2011**

**1 Peter 1:6-**

**12**

**Hebrews 12:1-2** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (2) looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who **for the joy that was set before him endured *the cross***, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

**“Sojourning in Suffering: For the Joy that is Before Us”**

Subseries: “The Identity of True Believers: Our Great Salvation”

Sermon: “Inexpressible Joy” Text: 1 Peter 1:6-8

\* Book: “The Privilege of Persecution” - Carl Mohler, David Hegg

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**1Peter 1:6-12** (6) In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, (7) so that the tested genuineness of your faith--more precious than gold<sup>v18</sup> that perishes though it is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (8) Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, (9) obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (10) Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, (11) inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. (12) It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

**INTRO**  
Church

Children's

*What is your faith based on? And what would it take for you to call it “quite”?*

**I Peter writes of The Joy of Our Salvation Through Temporary Trials (vs6-8)**

*\*We are Sojourners in Suffering* \* Yet our joy will be Great.

Along with the promises of a Living Hope, A Certain Future and a Secure Eternity we also have the promise of Joyful Trials.  
Oxymoron – joyful trials.

**A. We are promised trials (6a)**

\* Not job loss due to poor economy. Not grieving over broken earthly relationship. Not even a life and death struggle with cancer.

(6) Wherein you greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, you are in **distress** through many **trials**:

Peter writes concerning Christian persecution (1:1). This is not intended to dampen our spirits, but to inform us that we must be prepared and be mindful – not caught off guard when persecution and suffering comes. – Whether today or in the End Times.

*\* Expect such things. Be Prepared to Endure such things.*

The Gospel of Jesus Christ, has unmatched power (1) for the salvation of souls, and (2) for the destruction of relationships. The Gospel will divide. It is the watershed issue of all religions and even among “Christians”.

This is what has happened with the believers to whom Peter writes, the gospel has destroyed their relationship with their culture and their culture has turned on them.

**2Tim. 3:11-12** my **persecutions and sufferings** that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra--which persecutions I

*Sojourning and Suffering...for the joy that is before us*

endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. (12) Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

- *In the Parable of the Sower* –

**Mat 13:20-21** As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, (21) yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and ***when tribulation or persecution*** arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.

\*\* Not “if”, but “when” tribulation arises.

((We are promised trials. We should expect trials. So we must be prepared to endure those trials.))

**B. We are promised trials with joy (6c)**

(6) In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,

Greatly rejoice – sounds like an oxymoron. The two don’t seem to go together.

The word rejoice means Mega-Joy or to jump for joy.

Whether it is simply a misunderstanding or mistreatment by an unbelieving culture, we will face trials, ***yet*** in those trials will be joy.

**Heb. 12:9** “...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him, *endured...*”

**C. We are promised many yet temporary trials (6b)**

\* *Security in Christ, does not guarantee comfort in life.*

“for a while”, “for a season” = temporary / limited period of time. That is, not always, but for a time. This is part of the reality of the Christian faith. And yet we must not remain focused on the trial, but on the joy that is before us, that is the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and the fulfillment of our salvation at that time. (v5)

Sojourning and Suffering...for the joy that is before us  
( ( Our trials will be diverse, yet our joy will be great.))

## II. We see The Purpose of Our Trials Toward Purification of our Faith. (v6-8)

\*

### A. Our Purposeful Purification (v6-7)

(6) In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, **if necessary**, you have been grieved by various trials, (7) so that the tested genuineness of your faith--more precious than gold<sup>v18</sup> that perishes though it is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Rejoice → tested → faith → genuineness → praise, glory & Honor.

#### 1. It is necessary (v6)

**1Pet .1:6** In this you rejoice, though *now for a little while*, **if necessary**, you have been grieved by various trials,

Part of God's plan from the beginning. – Not comfort or ease, but trials and suffering. The persecuted church around the world not only experiences this testing of their faith, they expect it – not because it is part of their daily life experience, but because it is part of the Biblical promise for true vers.

#### 2. It is purifying (v7)

That is the purpose of our sufferings and persecution to purify faith.

Which is to result in praise and honor and glory to Jesus Christ at His coming.

Our purified faith is compared to purified Gold. Fire does not destroy Gold, it rids it of it's dross and impurities. Likewise for faith, the fiery trial

#### 3. It is purposeful (v7)



## Sojourning and Suffering...for the joy that is before us

\* Our faith must be tested. It must be proven genuine. It must be purified. I must be prepared to be an offering of praise and honor and glory to Jesus Christ as His glorious appearing.

### **B. Our Inexpressible Joy** (v8 --cp.v6)

*\*Trials and suffering cannot quench a true faith, love and worship, but refines it.*

(8) Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,

They experience true joy in their Salvation through their temporary Sojourning and Suffering. Joy comes from Love for Jesus and faith in Jesus.

**Heb.12:2** ...for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, (i.e. tribulation, persecution, torture, suffering, hardship, suffering = death)

### **C. Our Reasonable Expectations**

\* Our trials must never overshadow or occlude our incomprehensible peace and in inexpressible joy in Christ.

#### **1. A Stumbling Block for Many**

One thing the true believing Christian can count on is persecution. Not inconveniences, but persecution.

Barna and others are doing much more revealing research in the area of American Christianity and True vs False conversions.

It seems that much of American Christianity seems to have fallen for the false and idolatrous teaching of the prosperity gospel movement. That God wants you comfortable – He wants you healthy and wealthy – God wants you driving the finest automobile, - He wants you to wear the fanciest clothing – He wants us to focus our attention and spend all our resources on ourselves

James writes at about the same time, to basically the same group of people that Peter is writing to.

**James 1:1-4** James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the **Dispersion**: Greetings. 2 Count it all **joy**, my brothers, when you meet **trials** of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Inexpressible Joy in Unimaginable Suffering sounds like an oxymoron for us, but for the Global Persecuted Church of Jesus Christ, they know the joy of suffering for righteousness and for the name of Christ.

## **2. An Issue misunderstood by many**

**ILL** – Once I visited a crowded store front church in downtown Chicago. The preacher was on a stage with casual but very *nice* casual clothing, lots of jewelry, and expensive alligator boots. I know they were expensive alligator boots because the preacher made a point of telling us about the boots.

His audience was people from all walks of life, but many were street people – people who lived on the street or in local flophouses. The preacher’s focus was on “suffering and hardships”. As he was attempting to relate his own personal woes, he told the story of how the previous week had been a tremendous time of personal struggle and suffering as he had somehow scratched his brand new, highly expensive alligator boots. After a while whining, a man in the very back row which was sitting almost next to me, shouted out “What about Jesus. Tell us about Jesus.” The preacher shouted back, “We’ll get to Him latter”, and he continued his whining tale of scratched alligator boots and the loss of his joy.

At that point, I felt 2 very strong feelings: 1) I felt I was going to explode from anger, and 2) I felt so sick to my stomach, I thought I was going to vomit.

–Why do people fall for that kind of teaching? Because it is attractive to the fallen, sinful, self-focused human nature of a person – even “Christians”. The belief that “the church” doesn’t deserve to

Sojourning and Suffering...for the joy that is before us  
suffer is FALSE. Suffering tests and proves faith. That is needed for each of us, in every area of the “church”.

### **3. A Stark Reality to Most believers**

**ILL** Perhaps a more accurate example of true hardship and suffering can be related in the book, *“The Privilege of Persecution”* p.68. (story of the North Korean persecution)

Church history tells us that as they were being bull dozed they did so from toe to head for maximum pain and suffering. And as the church of North Korea were being bulldozed into oblivion, they sang what became the faith song of the Korean persecution...

#### **“More Love to Thee”**

More love to Thee, O Christ, more love to Thee!

Hear Thou the prayer I make on bended knee.

This is my earnest plea: More love, O Christ, to Thee;

More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest;

Now Thee alone I seek, give what is best.

This all my prayer shall be: More love, O Christ to Thee;

More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

Let sorrow do its work, come grief or pain;

Sweet are Thy messengers, sweet their refrain,

When they can sing with me: More love, O Christ, to Thee;

More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

Then shall my latest breath whisper Thy praise;

This be the parting cry my heart shall raise;

This still its prayer shall be: More love, O Christ to Thee;

More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

So the words of this hymn of Christian devotion, became the last words of many Persecuted and martyred Korean believers. This is true and genuine persecution. Not inconveniences, not scratches on our precious worldly treasures, not tears from broken earthly relationships, not even the physical pain of struggling through the

life and death battle of cancer, --but that of genuine Christian persecution.

**Mat 13:20-21** As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, (21) yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises ***on account of the word***, immediately he falls away.

**ILL:** Not long ago I heard one of my favorite radio preachers preaching on the rapture. He was attempting to convey a compelling defense of the pre-tribulational rapture of the church. He was talking of the suffering that was certainly to be part of the Tribulation and how he felt believers would be raptured at the beginning of the Tribulation so the church would not have to suffer during the Tribulation. In the presentation to make his point he made the statement:

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*“If the church is not raptured before the Tribulation, what hope do we have?”*

---

I was driving and I nearly ran off the road!!

Did you get it?

Do you see his mistake?

Friends, whether we are raptured at the beginning of the Tribulation or at the end – whether we suffer or escape suffering ....

*...Our “Hope” is **NOT** in the  
“hope”  
that we will not have to suffer!!*

Our Blessed Hope (Titus 2:13) always has been and always will be in the fact that Christ will return to make all things right and we will

*Sojourning and Suffering...for the joy that is before us*

spend eternity in Christ's presence. The issue of suffering is irrelevant to our eternal hope.

**Rev 1:2** who bore witness to ***the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus*** Christ, even to all that he saw.

**Rev 1:9** I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of ***the word of God and the testimony of Jesus***.

**Rev 6:9** When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for ***the word of God and for the witness [of Jesus ]*** they had borne.

**Rev 20:4** Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for ***the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God***, and who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

*Who says true believers won't suffer?*

I invite you to read of Christian persecutions throughout history and note the attitude of those who were the ones suffering.

Christians in Scripture and those in early Church history who have suffered persecution because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus, have considered it a *joy* to suffer for the cause of Christ.



# Holy Living

**October 23, 2011**

**1 Peter 1:13-**

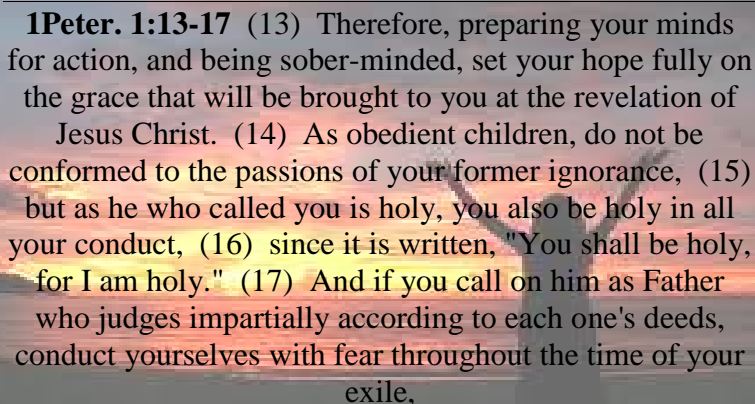
**17** Subseries: "The Identity of True Believers"

*\* Book: "The Privilege of Persecution" - Carl Mohler, David Hegg*

**Hebrews 12:2** "...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who **for the joy that was set before him endured the cross**, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

## **The Identity of Every True Believer**

Our New Life Focus - 1:13-25



**1Peter. 1:13-17** (13) Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (14) As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, (15) but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, (16) since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." (17) And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,

**INTRO**  
Church

Children's

**Do We realize what we are a part of?** (vs9-12)

*\* The Great Mystery of Our Salvation*

**1Pet. 1:9-12** (9) Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. (10) Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: (11) Searching what, or what manner of

## Sojourning and Suffering...for the joy that is before us

time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. (12) Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

### **A. Peter writes of our Salvation Received (v9)**

\* Our Salvation is our divine heavenly treasure

### **B. Our Salvation was Sought (v10)**

\* We are part of something so out of this world – so supernatural – God’s mystery of old- the fulfillment of the gospel.

### **C. Salvation Promised (v11)**

1. The Spirit of Christ preached or proclaimed it as a mystery.

2. The Sufferings of Christ were predicted or prophesied of the glories of Christ to come even though He sacrificed everything, suffered incredibly – yet for the joy that was set before him, endured it all for the Glory of His Father and for the salvation of the Church.

### **D. Salvation Revealed (v12)**

We are part of something, that in terms of its duration, its impact and its purpose – is unparalleled in human history. That is the plan of God for the redemption of mankind

1. The Ministry was not for themselves but for those who would come later. – “for all peoples” (Lk.2:10)

\* And because of our salvation, we are expected to live in a different way – in a **holy way**. God expects Holy Living. God’s Expectation of Holy Living

Eternal Promises. ...

## **I Holy Living Involves Sober-Minded Thinking (v13)**

*\* The Proper Christian thinking process.*

*The Fact of our identity in Christ must lead us to live differently.*

**(Read “The Privilege of Persecution”, p.98)**

**v13)** Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

### **A. The Proper Christian thinking process (v13a)**

Prepare = gird up the loins

Mind = thoughts (διάνοια) through + mind = through mind

“through mind” = that which goes through the mind or the thinking process.

“Action” is implied – or expected.

This is where the Christian life begins and ends. – the mind

This is where our battles are won or lost. – our thoughts

\* Take control of and responsibility for your **Thinking Process**.

“Whatever fills our minds, rules our thoughts” “Whatever rules our thoughts, forms our faith”. – all of which will affect our lifestyle.

### **What really fills our minds?**

Is it God’s Word? Secular philosophies? Political Ideas?

Godless News Media? Whatever it is, will ultimately affect our lifestyle.

((We need to have proper Christian thinking process))

### **B. The Proper Plan of Action (v13)**

1. sober = Clear minded – thoughts

2. “hope to the end” = be unwavering in your

confidence in God’s grace until death or until Christ is revealed, which ever may come first.

v13) – our living hope – even though we may die believing.

\* The purpose for the proper plan of action is personal holy Living.

(( *Holy Living Requires a proper Christian thinking process.*))



## **II. Holy Living Involves Past Life Rejecting (v14)**

\* *There comes a time when we turn our backs on our past.( that is, our past way of thinking and living.*

**14)** As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,

### **A. Obedient Children of God (v14a)**

Obedient = attentive ( “mind action” – thinking process)

“We play around the mud puddles in the kingdom, while our residence is in the castle. *We are far too easily satisfied with lesser things.*”

—CS Lewis

Holy Living involves living according to God’s expectations for us and living according to our identity.

### **B. Do not be Conformed to our passions (v14**

(cp. Rom.12:2)

Passions or desires are That which tempts us, causes us to make the decisions we make and live the way we live.

Our fallen, sinful, human nature has fallen, sinful human desires.

We are not to allow that to fill our minds, thus controlling our actions, thus molding our character!!

### **C. Knowledge vs Ignorance (v14c)**

Ignorance – i.e. Before we realized we were sinners. Before we realized what God’s expectations were for us. Before we became the dwelling place of the Spirit of God.

With our new understanding, and with our renewed Christian thinking process we are expected to begin making past-life rejecting decisions. In other words, we don’t continue to make the same life altering mistakes. We don’t continue making the same sin entrenching choices.

We don’t indulge in the same sinful behavior. We no longer practice the same thinking process.

Sober minded Holiness means, at some point along the way, we begin to show evidence of the Holy Spirit of God in our lives and that we are now different than we used to be when we were unregenerated sinners.

**Now** we are different. Therefore **Now** we make different, sober minded, past life rejecting decisions.

((Holy Living Requires Past Life Rejecting .))

### **III Holy Living Involves Holy Spirit Living (v15-16)**

\* *The Holy Spirit of God desires to dramatically affect our lives.*

(15) but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, (16) since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

\* The Holy Spirit is not merely a title, it is a character description. Holy Spirit can be translated the Spirit of Holiness.

#### **A. God is Holy (v15)**

1. Holy means set apart – completely different
2. Holy means perfectly righteous and sinless

#### **B. God expects us to be holy (v15)**

1. Holy means to be set apart and completely different

Leonard Ravenhill – “How is it the pagan world couldn’t get along with the most holy man on earth, but they can get along fine with us? *Have we compromised?*”

2. Holy means living our lives as instruments of righteousness. **Not** perfectly righteous, in lifestyle but growing in righteousness.

3. The Holy Spirit will lead us to grow in holiness and live more righteously. Holy Spirit Living only results from a proper thinking process and rejecting our past life practices.

**Gal 5:16** This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

((Holy Living Requires Holy Spirit Living .))

### **IV Holy Living Involves Holy Reverent Sojourning (v17)**

Sojourning and Suffering...for the joy that is before us

\* *Remembering that we are Sojourners can help us live with more sober minded holiness.*

17) And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,

- pilgrimage – earthly life of persecution.

**A. God is both Loving Father and Righteous Judge**

(v17a)

\* *We are to live as those who are accountable to God for every deed we perform, as well as for every sacrifice we make.*

\* We are not at home. This life is temporary.

When one gives himself or herself to God and sets himself apart for God's service – often times there is a price to be paid for a life dedicated to holiness.

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Consider this example given of one sold out believer in India who desired to live his life of holiness – set apart for God's service. ("Consider Your Call", p.37, Gisela Yohannan)

"Maybe the members of your family are non-Christians, and they didn't like your conversion at all. It was a shame to their family name and a great concern to the whole village whether the gods would be angry now and send punishment.

After the Lord called you, it took a lot of courage to tell them that you were going to go to Bible school. You expected them to be angry, but you are totally unprepared for their reaction.

They tell you that if you go ahead with this plan of yours, they will disown you and denounce you as their son. You will no longer be allowed to live in their home or ever come back."

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Holy Living has consequences. Not only will judgment take place on unbelievers for sin, but judgment will be made on behalf of those who sacrificially lived for Christ as a sojourner –set apart from the world – set apart from their own desires – set apart to follow God's leading and to serve Him wherever it may take him or her.

## Sojourning and Suffering...for the joy that is before us

When we are seeking to live holy lives to the LORD, holiness will not be a label we wear, but it will become a description of Christ like character and our way of living.

Those who have trusted Christ, then lost family by being rejected – they often lose all they call dear, so they have very little of their old life to tempt them and draw them back into their old ways.

v17 states that we are to conduct ourselves – not merely as exiles and sojourners, but Sojourners of Holiness whose home and citizenship is not of this earth and whose life does not consist of the things of *this* life, but in the life to come.

That perspective must mark our lives.

v13) Focus our hope on the grace to come at Christ's revelation. When we sacrifice and when we experience personal loss, they are only earthly losses- they are temporary to begin with.

What we might be afraid of losing in our living a life of Holy Reverent Sojourning, God will not allow you to go unrewarded or unreimbursed in the supernatural, in a manner that only He can reward.

**1Cor. 2:9** But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"--

\* Ultimately, living lives of holy living for Jesus Christ, involves no true loss, only eternal gain.

((Holy Living Requires Holy Reverent Sojourning ))

## **APPLIED SALVATION**

What are you afraid of sacrificing for God?

What are you afraid that if you give it up, that your hopes and desires will be gone forever? (*Could that be an idol?*)

What is it that is keeping you from surrendering fully to God, setting yourself apart for His use – what is keeping you from living

## *Sojourning and Suffering...for the joy that is before us*

a life of holiness to the Lord – for fear of loosing out on some good thing for your life?

How is your life different from our culture?

Christian – Young person – God withholds no good thing from those who love Him enough to put Him first in all things.

God is well pleased with those who live lives of holiness – not as a label, but in Christ like thinking and purity of life.

### **Communion**

1) Communion should always remind us of the death-blood payment Jesus Christ made for our sins, so we could have a sure hope in God's grace.

2) Also, communion must also remind us of the life of holiness that God calls every true believing Christian to be living.

Question: Lord, are you pleased with the way I am living? Am I living a life of holiness, dedicated to the LORD?

Am I living differently than the people around me?

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# Living In The Light

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# Of The Cross

October 30, 2011

1 Peter 1:17-

25

## *Missions Sunday*

**The Identity of Every True Believer** – Not an emphasis on our earthly citizenship but our heavenly citizenship.

**INTRO**

Kids Sermon

**1Peter 1:17-25** And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, (18) knowing that you were ransomed from the futile<sup>v14</sup> ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, (19) but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (20) He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, (21) who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. (22) Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (23) since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; (24) for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, (25) but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

*\* The Light of the Cross shines on our path and gives direction.*

**I Living In The Light Of The Cross Means we are to Live As Citizens of Heaven who Reflect A Life of Redemptive Focused Love** (v17-21)

## Sojourning and Suffering...for the joy that is before us

\* *We are reminded that God judges and God rewards our manner of living.*

For the true believing Christian, our love is to be focused back on our Redeemer. ***Gods love*** and ***Christ's love*** results in Redemption. Our relationship must result in Living the Life His love is worthy of.

Recently in our Release Time group, we were talking about God's love being demonstrated in sending His Son to die for our sins. As we were discussing that, one student raised her hand and said, "We know that God the Father loves us and sent His only Son, but what about Jesus? It seems like He would have to love us also, in order to be willing to die for us."

What a thrill to hear that understanding from a 5<sup>th</sup> grader.

### **A. There is the Spotlight of Holy Reverence (17**

( 17) And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,

*\*God Judges and God Rewards*

**READ** p. 98 from "*The Privilege of Persecution*"

### **1. The Light of the Cross Spotlights Sober minded**

**Living** - clear minded focus on the reason we are in this world – why we are in this situation – why we are living the way we are living, in the culture in which we are living and we are to live differently in the light of the cross.

### **2. The Light of the Cross Spotlights living that is**

**Not characterized by frivolity** – Exile (v17, v1) = pilgrims –  
- Pilgrims don't flee for their lives and as they go they are saying, "Hey, is there something along the way here, that we can participate in or acquire that'll weigh us down?" "Is there something we might become involved in that might ensnare us?"

In his book "*Don't Waste Your Life*", John Piper states: "This is one of the biggest tragedies in our culture – that billions of dollars are invested every year to get people...to waste the rest of our lives!"

## Sojourning and Suffering...for the joy that is before us

Billions of dollars invested to persuade us and lure us at any cost it seems, to waste the rest of our lives. It's called retirement. And in some, it goes like this. 'You've worked for it. Now enjoy it.' Twenty years perhaps of play, leisure, ease, while the world, uncared for medically, uneducated, filthy-water, poverty-stricken, **unevangelized**, sinks under the weight of healthy 65-year-old people playing bridge and shuffleboard, and collecting shells, and fishing, and golfing their way into the presence of King Jesus. And you know what? You're gonna join them, unless, at this stage in your life, you make some very radical decisions, very radical commitments, very radical choices, about where your treasure is." (*God reminds us that we are Sojourners and we must not live a life focused on earthly frivolity*)

### **3. Sense of purpose, responsibility and urgency** –

Peter writes with a sense of urgency and a burden for the early believers – Urging them to live responsibly to live the Christian life we have *in* Christ and live the life God has called us to live *For* Christ.

## **B. The Light Of The Cross Ultimately Illuminates The Path of Holy Redemption and Sacrifice (v18-19)**

(18) knowing that you were ransomed from the futile<sup>v14</sup> ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable<sup>v4,7</sup> things such as silver or gold<sup>v7</sup>, (19) but with the precious<sup>v7</sup> blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

(Cp. ignorant v14)

**1. Ransomed from the futile ways** – empty, vain, worthless, way of life -- We've been Rescued from a life of going absolutely *NOWHERE*, but straight to hell.

Because of what God has done for us through Christ – live in purity and focused purpose for Christ – Live with a sense of Holy Fear – Live your earthly life like an exile – a pilgrim – an alien – a Sojourner in Suffering – not seeking to buffer our suffering or to numb the pain – but allowing it all to be a constant reminder that in this life – Each of us as true believing Christians - we have a purpose – to live as Sojourners in a manner in which reflects the



glorious, gifted, hope-filled joyful people we are – (that probably already fails to describe most of us as Christians) – but we are to live in a manner which reflects the glorious, gifted, hope-filled joyful people we ought to be.

**ILLUSTRATION** – Pumpkin is our new family member. As a stray cat, she lived like a stray – sleeping in the culverts, roaming through the woods and fields for food – shivering under a bush during the cold rain. But now as part of our family she lives differently – she enjoys the good life, because of her new home.

That is like we are – once we live like we had no heavenly home, but now as believers in Christ we do have a home and must begin to live like it.

**2. perishable** – Christ’s effective sacrifice is eternal, therefore, that which He purchased is also eternal.

**3. precious** – valuable – inestimable worth

**4. - lamb with blemish** – This seems intended to link the reader with the Passover Lamb that died in the place of its owner as a propitiation for our sins. It was to be, spotless and without blemish and its blood was shed for the owner.

**Propitiation** – the mercy seat –

Propitiation is that which purges the guilt of the sinner, and satisfied the wrath of God.

### **C. The Light of the Cross Points us to the Eternality of Holy Revelation and our Personal Salvation. (v20)**

(20) He was foreknown<sup>v2</sup> before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake

\* **Gods plan from eternity to eternity** – God’s eternal plan unfolding and they (we) are right in the middle of it. – Not by accident or coincidence or by the alignment of the stars, but by the Foreknowledge of God . i.e. according to the predetermined plane and all sufficient power of God.

v2) we are elect according to the foreknowledge of God, and Christ is Redeemer according to the foreknowledge of God (v20)

**D. There is the Spotlight of Holy Faith (21)**

**(21)** who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

**1. Through faith in the imperishable work of Christ**, we evidence true saving faith in God, Who raised and Glorified Christ.

**2. Result:** God points to Christ as His sacrifice for sin. In turn, faith in Christ, point us back to God the Father as the Source of all things. So if we fail to trust in or believe in God, it is impossible to trust or believe in Jesus. And ultimately, if we refuse to trust and believe in Jesus as Gods only Son, we fail to trust and hope in God. Because through faith in Christ, “our faith and hope are in God” (v21

*((Living In the Light of the Cross means, As Citizens of Heaven - purchased by the blood of Christ and redeemed from a worthless, wasted life – we should love the Lord and Live in such a way as to obey the one Who has bought us and reflect the one Who we desire to make known to the world ))*

**II. Living In The Light Of The Cross Means we are to Live As Citizens of Heaven who Reflect A Life of Long Term Endurance (22-25)**

*\* We don't give up, become distracted or allow ourselves to be led astray in our purpose or diluted in our passion for that Which God has called us.*

**A. There's A Life of Purity, Obedience & Love (22),**

**(22)** Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,

**1. Obedience to Truth** = if we fail to trust in the gospel message, we fail to “*obey the gospel*”

Obedient to the truth is continuing in our faith and remaining effective in our action.

**2. Purified by the gospel** – love exhibits pure love for one another. For the True Christian long term faith is effectively demonstrated by Christian love. Seems we can often endure unbelievers, but often can't endure one another.

**Illustration:** Pumpkin our new kitten has a problem. She is finding it difficult to get along with our other two cats. The dog – no problems, but the other cats are hissing and spitting and rearing up and challenging one another. And I'm thinking, "*Can't we all just get along?*"

This is what was happening to the believers. And Peter instructs them to love one another fervently.

## **B. There's A Life of New Birth and Spiritual Growth**

(23)

(23) since you have been born again<sup>v13</sup>, not of perishable seed but of imperishable<sup>v14,18</sup>, through the living and abiding word of God;

**1. Old birth** = Physical birth into physical family

**2. New birth** = Spiritual birth into the spiritual family of God through faith in Jesus.

## **C. A Life of Earthly Brevity and Heavenly Eternality**

(24)

(24) for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls,

**1. Human life is brief** –

brief – frail – passing - temporary

**2. Spiritual life is everlasting.**

- Eternal, enduring, incorruptible, permanent w/o end.

(25) but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

1. Eternal sacrifice of Christ
2. Eternal word of God
3. = = Eternal rock solid foundation for our faith
4. GoodNews = Eternal, Everlasting, unchanging, in

its power, unchanging in its purpose.

*((Living In Light Of The Cross Means we are to Live As Citizens of Heaven who Reflect A Life of Long Term Endurance))*

### **APPLIED SALVATION**

Living in Light of the Cross means focusing on the Finished work of Christ on the Cross but also on the unfinished work of missions to the world.

**Q:** Where does the light of the Cross shine?

- upon my heart – revealing motives, darkness, personal interests
- Through my life – Christ in me – His salvation power exhibited in my own personal new life transformation and focus.
- Into and across my mission field – illuminating the mission field – spotlighting the desperate need of those directly around me.
- brokenness, sinfulness, hopelessness. . .

The Cross shines into your soul and may spotlight unforgiveness. It may illuminate the fact that you have experienced a physical birth, into a physical family, but perhaps not a spiritual birth into God's spiritual family.

### **What do you need to do today?**

- 1) Talk to God regarding some snares or distractions in my Christian life? What is my part in God's calling to reach my mission field?
- 2) Talk to God regarding my eternal salvation? Do I have a firm assurance that I am saved, forgiven and presently part of Gods' family?
- 3) "Have I done my Best?"  
Am I doing my best for Christ?

Sojourning and Suffering...for the joy that is before us

\* *Does something need to change in my heart today?*

***Don't close this booklet***

*without considering this all important question.*



**Is Jesus Christ the Savior of your soul**

**and the Lord of your life?**

## Sojourning and Suffering...for the joy that is before us

Every person is born guilty of sin and in need of forgiveness.

For all have sinned, and come short  
of the glory of God; --*Romans 3:23*

Our sin is against God, therefore our forgiveness can only come  
from God.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only  
begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should  
not perish, but have everlasting life. --*John 3:16*

God has appointed His Son as the payment for sins and sent Him to  
die in our place.

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is  
eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
-- *Romans 6:23*

God's love is demonstrated through the sacrificial payment of Jesus  
Christ in our place for our sins.

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still  
sinners, Christ died for us. ---*Romans 5:8*

For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord  
will be saved." -- *Rom 10:13*

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name,  
he gave the right to become children of God, - *John 1:12*

Before you close this book, why not be absolutely certain that you  
are truly a citizen of God's eternal kingdom and loving family?

Trust in Jesus Christ today and receive forgiveness  
for your sins and citizenship into God's family and His  
kingdom.

**A** - Admit you have sinned and are in need of a Savior.

**B** - Believe Jesus died in your place, and you can no way help  
yourself.

**C** - Confess your sins to God. *He already knows.*  
- also Confess Jesus as you LORD.

**Prayer:** Take time to talk to God right now and open your heart and life to His instruction and leadership.

**Connect** with a local Bible believing, Christ centered church.

**Commit** yourself to meeting regularly with other Christians who are growing in their faith.

**Heb 10:24-25** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, (25) not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

**Act 2:41-42** So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. (42) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

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*It is our prayer that you find Jesus Christ to be,  
your greatest purpose, your highest calling, your  
soul's source and joy, and your all-consuming  
passion.*

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*Other Free Booklets downloadable at [www.ChristEFCA.org](http://www.ChristEFCA.org)*

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*May each lesson bring a growing submission, a deeper obedience and an increase of the righteous reign of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the fullness of His Spirit, in His Church and throughout our mission field.*

*--- Downloadable free resources at: [www.christefca.org](http://www.christefca.org) --*

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