

FIRST PETER

The Christian's Life in Exile —Part 5

1:6-9— “Joy in the Midst of Suffering”—March 22, 2015

“Never in human history has suffering been more readily relieved than today. And yet, paradoxically, we have never been more afraid of suffering.” — Wesley J. Smith

The Christian's Election and Exile—1 Peter 1:1-2

The Christian's Living Hope—1 Peter 1:3-5

“According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” —1:3

[elpis]— “Hope”— “A joyful and confident expectation”

[zaō]— “Living”— “Vibrant”—This adjective expresses the quality of the hope.

The Basis for the Christian's Living Hope:

⇒ The Mercy of God the Father ➡ “Born again” —Spiritually

⇒ The Resurrection of Jesus ➡ “Born again”—Physically

The Content of the Christian's Living Hope:

⇒ An Inheritance— “...*imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you...*”—1:4

⇒ Salvation— “...*ready to be revealed in the last time.*”—1:5

Joy in the Midst of Suffering—1 Peter 1:6-9

“In this you rejoice...” (1:6a) ➡ “...a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1:5b)

[agalliaō]— To exult, rejoice exceedingly, to be exceedingly glad. Used of worshipful joy ➡ (Luke 10:21)

- The rejoicing is linked directly to a focus on what is to come. We can rejoice _____ because of the assurance we have in Christ regarding the completion of our salvation in the future.

The Reality of Christian Suffering:

“...though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials...”

- The present rejoicing is occurring in the midst of trials which are a source of *grief*.
- These trials [peirasmos] are not referring to specific persecutions faced by these Christians, rather they should be understood as the normal suffering that Christians experience in an unbelieving world.

“Peter used the word “trials” rather than “tribulations” or “persecutions” because he was dealing with the general problems that all Christians face...” — Warren Wiersbe

Key Point: Jesus, our hope, is _____. Trials are _____.

The Purpose of Christian Suffering:

“...so that the tested genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire...”

- The suffering that God allows is a necessary part of His present work in our lives.

Peter's Illustration: The Refining of Gold

Key Point: Our faith is _____ through the trials we endure and is exceedingly more valuable than gold because it has eternal value.

The Intended Result of Christian Suffering:

“...may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

- Praise and honor and glory for:

1. _____

⇒ Christians have been promised reward at His judgement seat for faithful service . (2 Cor. 5:10)

2. _____

⇒ It is Christ who ultimately receives all praise, honor, and glory even for the work done in and through us. (Rev. 5:12)

Key Point: As Christians, we share in Jesus’ _____
as well as His _____.

The Object of the Christian’s Faith is the Reason for Rejoicing:

“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, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

- These Christians did not see Jesus while He was on earth, but they *love* Him.
 - ⇒ They heard the message of the Gospel and trusted Christ. (Rom. 10:17, Eph. 1:13)
- These Christians do not currently see Jesus in the midst of their trials but they *believe* in Him.
 - ⇒ They know the reality of His presence with them and have confidence in Him.
- The result of love for and belief in Jesus in the midst of trials is a *joy* that almost defies explanation.
 - “This is a mystery of faith contradicting everyday experience, and so the joy is inexpressible.” —J.N.D Kelly*
- The goal or outcome [telos] of faith is our salvation. Peter wants us to experience joy of our future salvation during the present. That is only possible when we know and enjoy _____.

“Not only do [Christians] have faith in Jesus and love for Jesus now; we also know already the joy we will experience when we see Him. Such is the faith and hope of those who know Jesus.” —Edmund Clowney

Key Point: For the Christian, there can be more _____ in Christ
than there is _____ in the trials of life.