

**Pastor Jason Huffman**  
**8/24/2025**

**Teaching Notes:**

The difficulty of following Christ in this world is a reality that cannot be denied.

There are times we have trouble because...

...we live in this broken, sinful world & other times...

...we have trouble because we do sinful/foolish things...

...but still other times because we are faithfully following Christ.

**Title: Suffering & Victory**

**Big Idea: Jesus' suffering brought our victory.**

**3 Bible study tips:**

**1. Know the context.**

**2. Use Scripture to interpret Scripture.**

**3. Keep a humble mind.**

**18** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

**The doctrine of atonement:**

Christ paid the debt to cover our sin & now we can be at one or reunited & restored w/God.

**1. God can use unjust suffering in a powerful way.**

**19** by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, **20** who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while *the* ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.  
Jesus preached to spirits in prison, who were disobedient in the days of Noah?!?

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

Jude 1:6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

II Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;

Genesis 6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

**2. God judges rejectors but gives victory to the righteous.**

**21** There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, NIV 21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

**The waters of baptism symbolize death & speak of judgment.**

22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

II Timothy 2:11 It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: **12** If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us.

**3. Life with Christ brings temporary suffering but eternal joy.**

Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

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**Sermon Recap**

In this message, Pastor Jason unpacks the paradox of Christian suffering through the lens of 1 Peter. Through vivid biblical connections, we see how unjust suffering can become a powerful testimony of God's grace and tool of salvation. Whether you're facing persecution or wrestling with life's challenges, this message offers profound hope and practical wisdom for standing firm in faith.

**Discussion Questions**

Pastor Jason says that suffering can come from different things. How can knowing why we are suffering help us to endure walk faithfully in our suffering?

- There are times we have suffer trouble because we live in this broken, sinful world, other times because we do sinful/foolish things, and still other times because we are faithfully following Christ.
- Think about a recent difficult situation in your life - which category of suffering would you place it in and why?

The sermon discusses how baptism symbolizes death and new life in Christ. How does understanding this symbolism help us face persecution or trials?

- Pastor Jason explains that baptism is not about cleanliness but is a pledge and declaration before God that our old life is dead and we have been raised in victory as Christ rose from the dead.
- How does remembering your baptism (or commitment to Christ) help you handle difficult situations differently than you might have before?

What have you learned about the reality of unjust suffering as a follower of Christ and the possible power of it?

- Following Christ is difficult in this world that has rejected Him. But our suffering can be a powerful testimony that can draw others to receive Christ and be saved rather than rejecting Him and being judged.

- How could this hope for others help you endure unjust suffering?

Pastor Jason mentions that Noah was saved by grace through faith, not his own righteousness. How does this parallel our own salvation story when facing trials?

- The sermon references Genesis 6:8 showing that Noah found grace in God's eyes, just as we are saved by grace through faith rather than our own righteousness.
- How does knowing you're saved by grace rather than your own goodness affect how you handle difficult circumstances?

### **Prayer**

- Ask God to help us find strength and courage during times of unjust suffering.
  - Pray for opportunities to use our trials as a way to witness to others about God's love.
  - Seek God's guidance in maintaining humility and understanding as we study the Scriptures.
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## **5 Day Devotional**

This five-day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the sermon from this weekend. We will explore the themes of suffering, victory, and perseverance as we reflect on our faith journey and Christ's triumph over unjust suffering.

### **Day 1**

*1 Peter 3:18*

In today's devotional, we explore the theme of unjust suffering as exemplified by Christ. His suffering was not in vain; rather, it served as a profound act of atonement, bridging the divide between humanity and God. The passage reminds us that suffering, though difficult, can be an opportunity for growth and a testament to one's faith.

Our experiences of persecution or hardship can reflect Christ's act of love for us. As we confront our struggles, we are called to walk by faith, knowing that these trials do not signify abandonment by God. Instead, they highlight the mission Christ accomplished through his suffering and resurrection.

- How do I generally react to suffering or difficult times?
- What can I learn from Christ's example of enduring unjust suffering?
- How does this perspective change my view on personal struggles?
- Pray for strength and wisdom to approach suffering with faith.
- Thank God for the victory and salvation through Christ's sacrifice.

### **Day 2**

*Hebrews 9:27*

The passage focuses on the finality of judgment and salvation. This illustrates the significance of acknowledging and accepting Christ now, while we have the chance.

Reflect on how Jesus' victory over sin and death must be received today. Then we can live with the confidence that our faith in Christ secures our position with God. His singular act on the cross is sufficient for all time for those who believe and follow His ways.

- What does it mean to me that Christ's sacrifice was a one-time, complete act?
- How can I live my daily life in response to His victory?
- How do I share this assurance and message with others?
- Ask for guidance in sharing the message of salvation.

- Pray for a heart that trusts wholly in Jesus' finished work on the cross.

### **Day 3**

*Genesis 6:8 - Hebrews 11:7*

The journey of Noah signifies faith and God's grace amidst a sinful world. Noah's obedience in the building of the ark symbolizes our call to put trust in God, looking beyond what is seen to what is promised. Despite widespread disbelief, Noah remained steadfast, anchored by divine grace.

We too are beckoned to reflect on this perseverance, trusting that righteous living, though often met with resistance, results in divine reward and protection. Our actions in faith serve not just as personal salvation, but as a beacon of righteousness that can lead others to Christ.

- How can I act obediently even when I am opposed or misunderstood?
- What steps can I take to grow in faith like Noah?
- How do my actions demonstrate my trust in God's promises?
- Pray for strength to remain faithful amidst adversity.
- Seek courage to act according to God's righteousness.

### **Day 4**

*1 Peter 3:21*

Baptism symbolizes the salvific work of Christ and our own passage through death to new life. Much like the flood, it's a powerful image of judgment and salvation intertwined. Baptism represents not just an outward cleanliness but an internal renewal, a pledge of a clear conscience towards God.

It echoes our spiritual rebirth as we rise anew, cleansed from our sins through Jesus' resurrection. Our immersion in water is a bold declaration of faith, affirming loyalty to God's victory over sin and death, invoking a lifelong commitment to follow Christ.

- What does baptism mean to me personally?
- In what ways can I continue to grow in my relationship with God after baptism?
- How does participating in this ritual strengthen my faith?
- Pray for a deeper understanding of the transformative power of baptism.
- Thank God for the gift of a new life through His resurrection.

### **Day 5**

*Galatians 6:9*

In conclusion, the scripture calls us to not lose heart in doing good, as the fruits of our labor will shine in due time. We learn that life with Christ entails temporary suffering, balancing the trials of this world with the promise of eternal joy. Through Christ's resurrection, we are assured of our salvation and future glory.

It's an invitation not just to persevere but to find hope and joy in the process of enduring for Christ. Jesus' promise is clear - enduring through hardships as His followers will yield eternal rewards and incomparable joy in His presence.

- How do I find hope and joy in my day-to-day activities amidst challenges?
- What practices could help bolster my perseverance in faith?
- How can I support others who might be struggling with similar issues?
- Pray for continuous hope and zeal in doing good.
- Seek opportunities to be a source of encouragement to others in faith.

