

“Suffering, yet Blessed”

Text: I Peter 3:17-20

Scripture reading: Genesis 6:1-8

Previous study:

I. Responding to right – vv. 13-14

II. Responding to reviling – vv. 15-16

Today’s study:

III. Responding to redemption – vv. 17-20

A) A sovereign decision – vs. 17

B) A saving death – vs. 18

Expressions of redemption:

-1st:

-2nd:

-3rd: (Jn. 6:44, 65)

-4th: (Lk. 23:46, 43; 24:31; I Cor. 15:42-44)

C) A spirit declaration – vv. 19-20 (Gen. 6:4-5)

Conclusion: Summary statements and study questions,

1) We interpret the Word by the truth of Christ and not by human experience. *How does the text explain this, and how do we apply this to our suffering for what is right?*

2) We are encouraged to suffer in doing right, knowing that this is according to God's will. *How does this encourage us in suffering?* Does it help knowing that God has ordained our suffering?

3) We must pursue good behavior for the sake of the gospel.

How does Peter show this?

4) The extent of our pursuit of doing good reflects our value of Christ. *Do you agree and why? How does the text show this?*

5) Those who Peter wrote vv. 18-22 to, likely understood his meaning. *How do you explain the mysteries, and why?*

“Christ did not rise from the dead as a private person but as the public head of the church, and the head being raised, the rest of the body shall not always lie in the grave. Christ's rising is a pledge of our resurrection (II Cor. 4:14).”

-Thomas Watson; Puritan preacher; 1620-1686

SERMON QUOTES:

III. Responding to redemption – vv. 17-20

B) A saving death – vs. 18

Expressions of redemption:

-4th: (Lk. 23:46, 43; 24:31; I Cor. 15:42-44)

Martin Luther,

“A wonderful text is this, and a more obscure passage perhaps than any other in the Testament, so that I do not know for a certainty just what Peter means. ...I cannot understand and I cannot explain it. And there has been no one who has explained it.”

C) A spirit declaration – vv. 19-20 (Gen. 6:4-5)

David Helm,

“...We must refrain from reducing the preaching of God’s Word to the mere rehearsing of the history of interpretation.”