



THE THREAD

weaving Sunday's message through the week

Date: September 9, 2018

Passage: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Title: The Reason for Our Hope

Summary: Christians possess a unique hope that transcends every circumstance humanity might find themselves in. Suffering provides those who are in Christ a unique opportunity to prove the surety of that hope. We rightly have an aversion to suffering, especially when it is purposefully for our harm, and yet if we truly believe God's word regarding his promise and our hope, we have nothing to fear. As impossible as this sounds to fear-prone people, faith emboldens hope and hope proves itself in the face of mistreatment. The critical question for us in suffering is, "Whose glory do we desire?" A vision for the glory of God enables us to endure suffering with true hope.

Outline:

I. Don't Be Afraid...Seriously (vv. 13-14)

II. Be Devoted to Christ (vv. 15-17)

a. Follow Christ's Example (v. 18)

b. Trust Christ's Work (v. 18)

c. Rejoice in Christ's Triumph (vv. 19-20)

III. Stand Firm in Christ's Redemption (vv. 21-22)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What cause you to fear most?
2. How are Christians blessed when persecuted?
3. If you had to choose, would you rather have God's blessing or comfort?
4. What are the benefits of standing firm when facing mistreatment?
5. What is an area in your life in which you need to "set apart Christ as holy?"
6. Does your typical response to mistreatment (or suffering in general) prove to others that you have a greater hope than comfort in this life?
7. What is the basis for a "clean conscience"? What are you hoping in for your standing before God?

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