SOJOURNERS AND STRANGERS

1 PETER 5:6-14 | POSTURE, PROTECTION, AND POSITION

Tradition has it that Peter was persecuted and eventually martyred. But when he heard that he was going to be killed by crucifixion, he felt himself unworthy to die in the same manner. So, he requested to be martyred by inverted crucifixion. In other words, Peter was crucified upside down.

If this is true, then we can say that Peter's long hoped for exaltation came after one brief and final instance of humility. Thus, the theme of Peter's letter continues to bring together two seemingly incompatible truths—our status in Christ and our sufferings on earth. For Christians, suffering always precedes subsequent glories. It was so for Peter. It was so for God's Son, and it is so for us. For Peter, even in death, the way to exaltation came by humiliation.

It is this inversion of suffering to attaining glory and honor that has been Peter's theme throughout. Let us look at how Peter exhorts Christians to endure difficulty, to have confidence in their security as believers, so they can partake in the glories of Christ after they have suffered a little while.

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1. 1 PETER 5:6-14. What is something the Lord highlighted to you this morning from the message? Any thoughts or questions?

2. HUMILITY. In this context, what does it mean to "humble yourself under the mighty hand of God?"

3. ANXIETY. How does the etemology of the word anxiety help us to understand it from a biblical perspective? How does "humbling yourself" help with handling anxiety in a biblical manner?

4. SOBER MINDED AND ALERT. What does Peter means when he calls the church to be "sober minded?" In what ways are you living in a spiritually sober life? Are there things are distracting and keeping you from being spiritually alert in your walk with Christ and the church?

5. SUFFERING A LITTLE WHILE. How does Peter's verbiage of "a little while" help give hope in the midsts of suffering? What is "suffering a little while" contrasted against?

7. PRAY. How can we pray for each other to humbly accept the circumstnaces of life and stand form against our enemy?