

SOJOURNERS AND STRANGERS

1 PETER 3:18-22 | THE PURPOSE OF SUFFERING

Throughout church history, it has been universally agreed that 1 Peter 3:18-22 has been one of the most – if the *the most* – difficult passage to interpret in the New Testament. Yet, despite that there is just as much agreement in the evangelical world on how this text is *applied* to our lives. That should give us a great deal of confidence that this text, while difficult, has profound meaning for us today. So, what is the application of this text?

The apostle Peter writes to encourage persecuted saints who are suffering unjustly to encourage them that the difficult road of suffering is the very road that Christians take to enter glory. In other words, while Christ blazed a path to glory, the road is paved with suffering – for both Christ and Christians.

This unjust suffering has very clear and meaningful purposes – to bring us into the glory of Christ. This has a profound meaning for our suffering. It means unjust suffering has meaning, purpose, and is the very same road that Jesus took on the way to glorification.

SOJOURNERS AND STRANGERS

1 PETER 3:18-22 | THE PURPOSE OF SUFFERING

1. 1 PETER 3:7. What is something the Lord highlighted to you this morning from the message? Any thoughts or questions?

2. SUFFERING. What is the purpose of suffering? How does this help us to ensure unjust suffering well? What are some helpful questions that we can ask when we are enduring unjust suffering to orient our heart to Jesus and to glory?

3. JESUS' PROCLAMATION. While there is much debate on the specific meaning, there is great unity on the practical application of the text. What is this application? How does it help us endure unjust suffering?

4. NOAH AND BAPTISM. Again, while there is much debate on what exactly this text means, there is great unity on the practical application of the text. What are some application points?

5. HAVING BEEN SUBJECTED. What does it mean that everything was subjected to Jesus? What are some ways that – through unjust suffering – we will share in this with Christ (Rom 8:17; 1 Cor 6:2-3)?

6. PRAY. How can we pray for each other to ensure unjust suffering well because it is the very path to glory?