

IF WE SUFFER FOR DOING GOOD, WE ARE BLESSED
IF WE SUFFER FOR DOING EVIL, WE ARE BURDENED.

BURDEN & BLESSING

1 Peter 3:1-8-17

OUR LIFE, OUR CALLING

June 26, 2022

The Call

1 Peter 3:8-9 - Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

THE CALL 1

Do not forget what has been formed in you.

Submission summarized with our call to have the character and the mind of Christ (Philippians 2)

Why does this matter?

Our character and conduct matters when the going gets tough

THE CALL 2

Do not return what is given to you.

You are called to bless instead.

Not just because God said so, so you can get blessing in return.

Walking with and like Jesus.

When you are united with God, he takes our suffering and he does something with it.

When we are separated from God, we are left to build a life with the broken pieces of our suffering.

How does this work?

The Promise

1 Peter 3:10-12 - For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

Love life
See good days

Speak no evil or deceit
Turn from evil and do good

Seek peace and pursue it

God's attention and affection are for those who do good.

Back is turned against those who do evil.

We love to justify our responses to hardship, but God doesn't do this.

Our conduct matters, and it is why we need to have a cultivated heart.

This is the spiritual law of gravity.

Image bearers image God well the more our lives look like the life of Jesus.

Our Reality

1 Peter 3:13-17 - Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ^{THIS HAPPENS} But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

Walk through

a reason—a reasonable account. This refutes Rome's dogma, "I believe it, because the Church believes it." Credulity is believing without evidence; faith is believing on evidence . There is no repose for reason itself but in faith. This verse does not impose an obligation to bring forward a learned proof and logical defense of revelation. But as believers deny themselves, crucify the world, and brave persecution, they must be buoyed up by some strong "hope"; men of the world, having no such hope themselves, are moved by curiosity to ask the secret of this hope; the believer must be ready to give an experimental account "how this hope arose in him, what it contains, and on what it rests" [STEIGER].

If there is so much blessing tied up in obedience to God in spite of circumstance, then we need more robust discipleship.

Teaching to observe.

Sermon on the mount. →

IF WE SUFFER FOR DOING GOOD, WE ARE BLESSED
IF WE SUFFER FOR DOING EVIL, WE ARE BURDENED.

¹⁰ "You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.

¹¹⁻¹² "Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don't like it, *I* do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.