

STRANGERS & EXILES



CHRIST'S PEOPLE IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD

Living for that day– 1 Peter 3:13-17

November 5, 2023

The apostle Peter writes to the churches in Asia Minor encouraging them to stand fast in the midst of suffering. They are to follow the way of their Saviour who suffered in the flesh. God uses suffering to produce fruit in their lives and although they may be reviled for their way of life, God will finally bring about their vindication in the judgement to come. And as it was for them, so it is for us.

[If you're working through these in a group, jump straight to *Apply*]

For personal reflection/community discussion

Read – Read the passage in its context several times. Read it slow enough to understand what God is saying through it.

- What ideas or words are emphasised, repeated or related in this passage?
- In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage? (Try to summarise these verses in 10 words or less)

Examine – Next, try to understand the specifics of what the passage is communicating.

- What do you notice about God? What has he done/is he doing in these verses?
- What do you learn about Jesus and his gospel from this passage?
- What does it reveal about people?

- How do you think the writer wanted his reader to respond to these words?

Apply - After seeking to understand God's Word in this passage, consider how he intends to use it in your heart and life today.

- How does knowing that 'Christ suffered in the flesh' help us in our suffering and prepare us for suffering?
- How does suffering reset priorities and why is this a good thing?
- How can suffering cause confusion for Christians? Has suffering ever caused confusion for you and if so, how does this passage help?
- Have you ever been tempted to 'quit'? How has God's grace helped you through that? (Think of people, circumstance changes, scripture etc. that have been means of God's grace to you to help you through.)
- How does 'living for that day' help us persevere through times of suffering?