

Community Groups - January 15, 2017

Getting Started (10 minutes)

Peter tells us that if we are going to suffer, we should do so for doing good and not for doing evil. What are some ways that our own sin causes us to suffer? If you are feeling brave, share some ways you have suffered because of your bad decisions. Contrast this with suffering for doing good. Have you ever experienced this? What are some ways, in our contexts, that this does happen or might happen (even in little ways)?

Talking it Through (25 minutes):

1. Review the sermon from Sunday: What was the main text and the main point? What was the sermon all about?
2. Reread 1 Peter 3:8-17. What do you think Peter means?
3. What are the peculiar characteristics of a Christian in our culture? What traits, virtues, or values should we exhibit that clash with the world around us?
4. In what ways, in your work, neighborhood, family, etc., can righteous living be its own reward? When Peter tells
5. Dwell on Peter's command in verse 16, "*Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.*" How should this influence our apologetics (defense of the faith)?

Joyful Suffering Is Built on Future Hope

Matthew Richey

I Peter 3:8-17

Taking it Further (15 minutes)

Explore the theme of suffering in the New Testament. Look up the following passages (or assign people to explore what the Bible has to say about suffering in each passage). What can we learn about suffering from these passages? Did anything particularly grab, surprise, or even confuse you?

- Romans 5:1-5; Romans 8:12-25
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-11; 12:1-10
- Philippians 1:19-30; 3:7-10
- Colossians 1:24-29 (this should be thought-provoking!)
- Hebrews 2:1-18
- James 1:2-11
- 1 Peter 4:12-19

Taking it Home (10 minutes)

A strong theme in 1 Peter is our living hope. In 3:15 we're told to always be ready to give an account of the hope that is in us. What is the hope that Peter is referring to? What does it look like to be prepared to give an account of this hope?

Time to Pray (10 minutes)

Take time to share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group, and then pray for those needs

Next Sunday:
January 22, 2017
"Christ's Victory is **OUR** Victory"
I Peter 3:18-22
(Pastor Tyler Pease)