

I Peter 3:13-18

Suffering and Good News



- We will be looking at suffering and Good News today
- Peter was writing to Christians who were persecuted
- How do you deal with suffering? What does God say about suffering?
- The Good News of Jesus is the most important message to the world



I. A Blessing in Suffering

Vss. 13, 14, 16, 17



- Most people avoid suffering
- In America, we want to have as much comfort as possible. We have Air Conditioners for the summer heat



- There is nothing in the Bible that says you will be comfortable
- Jesus does talk about being persecuted for your faith
- You will be blessed by God for being persecuted, suffering. Peter talks about the same thing here



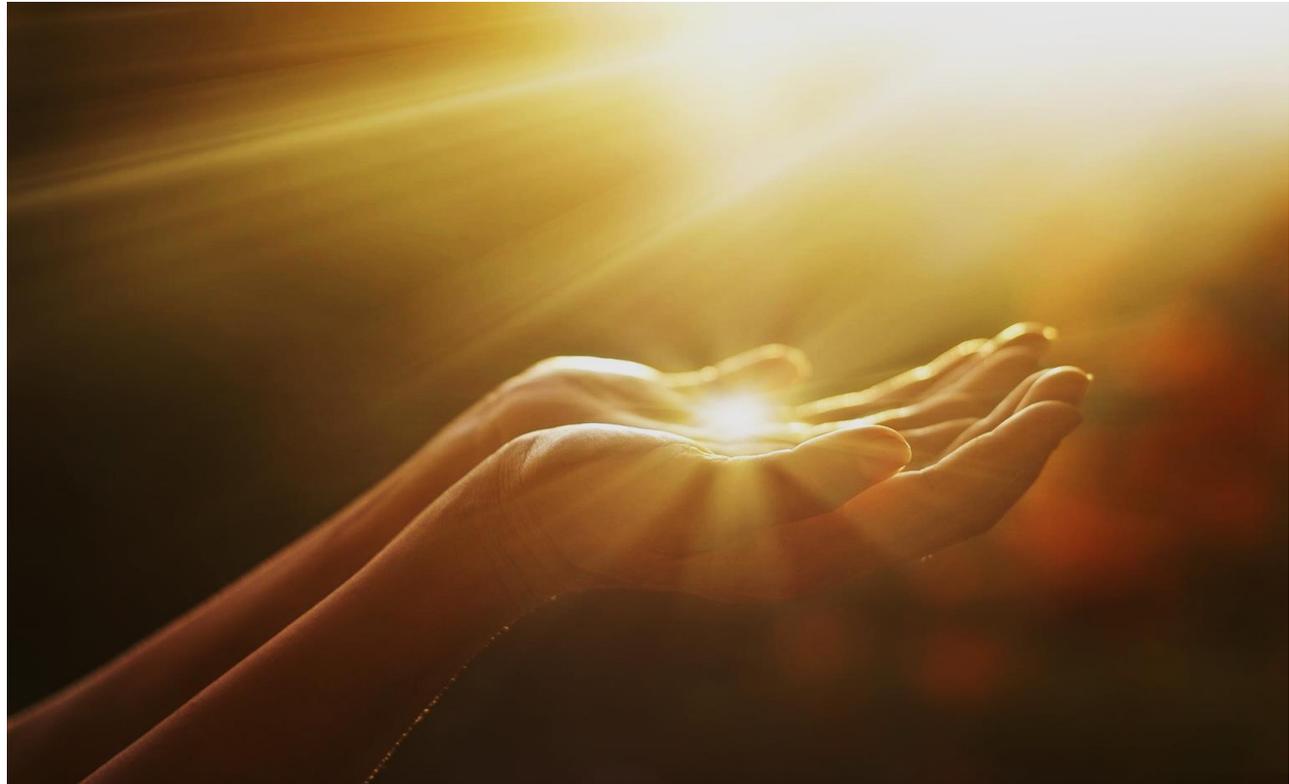
- Vs. 16 People were speaking maliciously against them
- That is to speak lies against them
- This kind of persecution tries to tear down your good character



- *“who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?”*
- Most of the time, good people don't suffer
- It makes no sense to treat good people badly
- But good Christians suffer all the time



- And when you do suffer for being a Christian
- You are blessed
- What is the blessing?
- It is a blessing from God to you



- When Jesus was on the earth, Peter said,
- We have left everything to follow you!
- What do we get?
- And Jesus said, he who has left home or family for the sake of the kingdom will receive 100 times and eternal life Mark 10:29



- You might receive a blessing here on this earth and that's OK
- But the blessing that is great is an eternal blessing
- Because it lasts into eternity



II. Sharing the Good News Vs. 15



- Jesus has many names, Christ is one of them
- Names describe who a person is,
- Christ describes Jesus as Savior
- And you set apart Christ Jesus in your heart
- That place in you where you make all the decisions in life



- *Always be prepared*
- *Have you ever shared your faith with another person?*
- *How did you come to faith in Jesus Christ?*
- *What Bible verses helped you to come to faith?*
- *What Bible verses have you found that strengthen your faith?*



- As you share your story, do it *gentleness and respect*
- Your goal is not to win an argument
- Your goal is to win them over for Jesus
- Your goal is not to make them feel terrible
- Your goal is to lovingly share the good news



III. The Good News Vs. 18



- I want to share with you the good news of Jesus Christ
- That you can be a child of God and live forever in heaven. This is why Jesus came to the earth
- Jesus went to the cross and took your sins upon himself

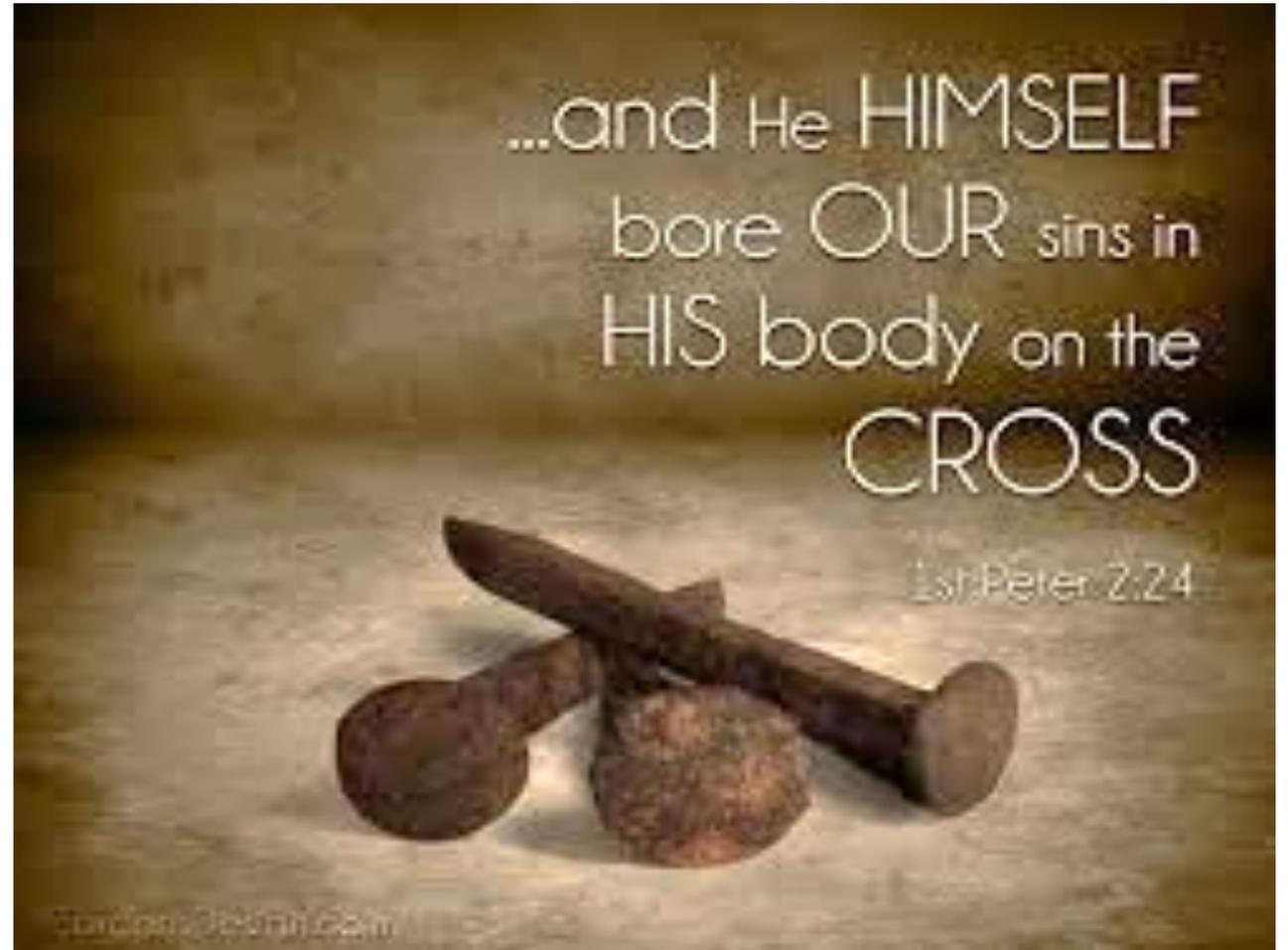


- Your sin separates you from God, you can't go to heaven
- And because of your sin you are to go to hell
- That's not good news, that's bad news
- God loves the people of the world and so he made a plan



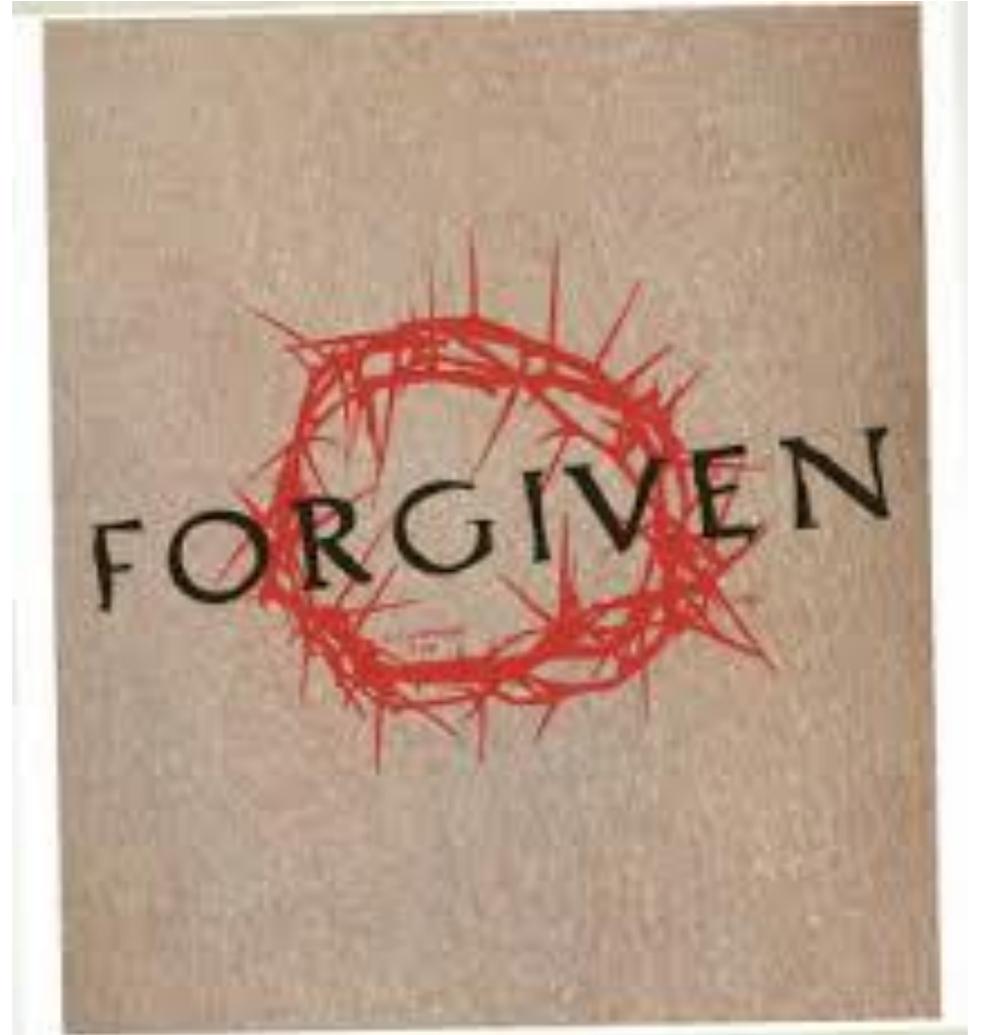
I love you
-God

- God sent Jesus to die for your sins, he paid the price
- And he died on the cross for your sins once for all people. He was righteous and perfect, dying for us, the unrighteous
- Because Jesus wants to bring you to God in heaven



*John 1:12 Yet to all who
received Him, to those
who believed in his name,
he gave the right to
become children of God*

- If you receive Jesus and put your faith in Jesus, you can be a child of God. You can have your sins forgiven
- You will go to heaven one day to be with God forever
- Jesus paid the ultimate price-his life



*Lord Jesus I ask that you
forgive me of my sin. I
receive you into my life. I
believe that you died and
rose from the grave. Come
into my life, Lord Jesus.*

For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

Porque Cristo murió por los pecados una vez y para siempre, el justo por los injustos, para llevarlos a ustedes a Dios. Él sufrió la muerte en su cuerpo, pero el Espíritu hizo que volviera a la vida

Kwa maana Kristo naye aliteswa mara moja kwa ajili ya dhambi, mwenye haki kwa ajili yao wasio haki, ili atulete kwa Mungu; mwili wake akauawa, bali roho yake akahuishwa

因为基督也曾一次为你们的罪死了,就是义的代替不义的,为要领你们到神面前.
就肉体的方面说,他曾死去;就灵的方面说,他复活了

Nítorí Kristi kú léèkan ṣoṣo fún èṣẹ̀ wa; olódodo ni, ó kú fún aláṣododo, kí ó lè mú wa wá sọ̀dọ̀ Ọlọrun. A pa á ní ti ara, ṣugbọ́n ó wà láàyè ní ti ẹ̀mí

Мәсіх те әділ бола тұра, әділетсіздер үшін азап шекті. Ол бізді Құдаймен табыстыру үшін күнәларымызға бола біржола құрбан болды. Сонда Мәсіх тәнінде өлтірілді, ал рухани денемен қайта тірілді

I Peter 3:13-18 Suffering and Good News

We will be looking at suffering and Good News today
Peter was writing to Christians who were persecuted
How do you deal with suffering? What does God say about suffering?
The Good News of Jesus is the most important message to the world
I hope that you understand it by the end of this teaching
And if you don't understand it, please ask the people here at ICC
We want you to understand it, your eternal life depends on the Good News

I. A Blessing in Suffering Vss. 13, 14, 16, 17

Most people avoid suffering
In America, we want to have as much comfort as possible
We have Air Conditioners for the summer heat
Remember what it was like before AC? Sweat and discomfort
We have Thermostats to control the Temperature in the house to ½ of a degree. Our cars have the same thermostats
Couches are comfortable, beds are cozy, carpets are soft
Everything is made for comfort
And we expect Christianity to be the same way
There is nothing in the Bible that says you will be comfortable
Jesus does talk about being persecuted for your faith
You will be blessed by God for being persecuted, suffering
Peter talks about the same thing here
These Christians in the Roman Empire were facing persecution
The Christians were not acting like Romans
They were following the teaching of Jesus
The Romans didn't like this strange new religion
Vs. 16 People were speaking maliciously against them
That is to speak lies against them
This kind of persecution tries to tear down your good character
But when you are a good person, when you have treated others well
When you have done nothing wrong, their lies have no power
They will be ashamed for trying to speak lies against you
Christians also lost jobs or lost business
Or they were being beaten by a mob of people
Or worse yet, the government didn't like them so they were put in prison
And eventually, the Christians were killed or tortured
At public events, Christians were put in the arena with wild animals and

eaten or killed as public entertainment and a warning to others not to follow the Christians religion
But even though Christians were persecuted, Christianity continued to grow. And today, as Christians are persecuted in many countries more people are becoming Christians
As Peter wrote this letter, he says,
“who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?”
Most of the time, good people don't suffer
It makes no sense to treat good people badly
But good Christians suffer all the time
And they suffer just because they are Christians, good people
Vs. 17 And it is better to suffer for doing good than evil
If you do evil, you deserve the punishment
And when you suffer for going good, following the teachings of Jesus
You are suffering for being a Christian
You are identifying with Jesus, because he suffered even though he didn't deserve it
And when you do suffer for being a Christian
You are blessed
What is the blessing? It is a blessing from God to you
When Jesus was on the earth, Peter asked him something like this
We have left everything to follow you!
Really, what he was asking was, what blessing do we get?
And Jesus said, he who has left home or family for the sake of the kingdom will receive 100 times and eternal life Mark 10:29
God is not stingy
You might receive a blessing here on this earth and that's OK
But the blessing that is great is an eternal blessing
Because it lasts into eternity
And don't forget, if you know Jesus as your Savior, receiving eternal life, being in heaven with God forever is the greatest blessing-gift that we could ever receive
If you don't know Jesus as your Savior, you have many things to fear. There is the fear of death and life after death
There is the fear of suffering, the fear of rejection
As a Christian, these things are not fearful
Because God has taken care of them for me
God has protected me from all those things
It is like God is saying, I will take care of it for you

II. Sharing the Good News Vs. 15

Instead of fearing things in this life, set apart Christ as Lord
Jesus has many names, Christ is one of them
Names describe who a person is, Christ describes Jesus as Savior
And you set apart Christ Jesus in your heart
That place in you where you make all the decisions in life
The spiritual heart guides you in life
If Jesus is in your heart and #1, He will guide your decisions
He will show you which way to go in life
He will show you which people to tell about Jesus
Because Christians act differently, people will notice
And people will be curious about why you are the way you are
Always be prepared
Have you ever shared your faith with another person?
How did you come to faith in Jesus Christ?
What Bible verses helped you to come to faith?
What Bible verses have you found that strengthen your faith?
It says here, “always be prepared”
That means you have to do some preparation ahead of time
Have you ever written your testimony, how you came to Jesus?
Have you ever searched the scriptures to find verses?
When you hear a sermon or a teaching and hear a verse
And you say, I have to remember that. Do you write it down?
And we have the internet today, a great tool
When I think of a verse, but only remember part of it
I google it and I always find the verse I was thinking about
And as you think about sharing your story with people
It would be a good idea to share it with a Christian first
A friend or your spouse and be open to suggestions
And then realize that you won’t do it perfect but you will get better
And don’t forget to pray about it
Lord, who would you like me to share my story with?
And be looking for opportunities
As you share your story, do it ***gentleness and respect***
Your goal is not to win an argument
Your goal is to win them over for Jesus
Your goal is not to make them feel terrible

Your goal is to lovingly share the good news that they can have a relationship with the God of heaven and earth
Your goal is to share the truth with someone and still respect them

III. The Good News Vs. 18

When Christians suffer it is following the example of Jesus
Jesus suffered for you
I want to share with you the good news of Jesus Christ
That you can be a child of God and live forever in heaven
This is why Jesus came to the earth
Jesus went to the cross and took your sins upon himself
Your sin separates you from God, you can’t go to heaven
And because of your sin you are to go to hell
That’s not good news, that’s bad news
God loves the people of the world and so he made a plan
God sent Jesus to die for your sins, he paid the price
And he died on the cross for your sins once for all people
He was righteous and perfect, dying for us, the unrighteous
Because Jesus wants to bring you to God in heaven
John 1:12 Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God
If you receive Jesus and put your faith in Jesus, you can be a child of God. You can have your sins forgiven
You will go to heaven one day to be with God forever
Jesus paid the ultimate price-his life
He died in his body but 3 days later he rose from the dead
Showing us that he defeated sin and death

Do you want to become a Christian? A follower of Jesus
You can put your faith in Jesus right now by praying with me:
Lord Jesus I ask that you forgive me of my sin. I receive you into my life. I believe that you died and rose from the grave. Come into my life, Lord Jesus.

If you prayed that prayer, let one of the people as ICC know that you did it
We want to help you in your new life as a Christian