

Saint Pauls Cathedral, Melbourne

Bible Study, Sunday 23 August 2020

We studied 1 Peter 3:13 – 22 LAST week

¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should **suffer** for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” ¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷ For it is better, if it is God’s will, to **suffer** for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also **suffered** once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹ After being made alive,^[d] he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God.^[e] It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

OVERVIEW OF 1 PETER

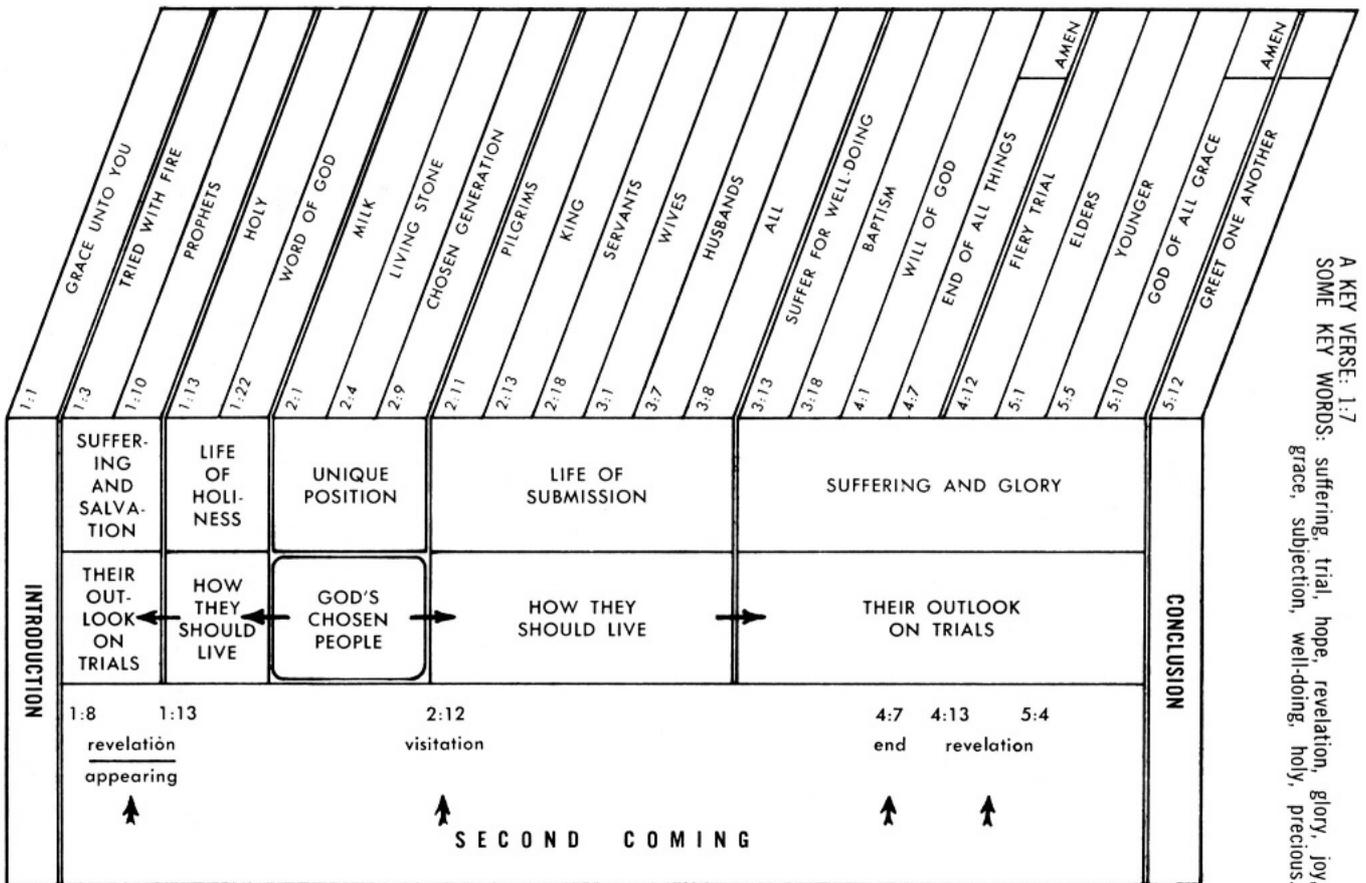


Chart from Jensen's Survey of the NT - used by permission

This week's passage: 1 Peter 4:1-6

*Therefore, since Christ **suffered** in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin.*

² As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.

³ For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.

⁴ They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you.

⁵ But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

⁶ For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to human standards in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.

⁷ The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.

SUMMARY

The theme of suffering for righteousness' sake continues. Just as Christ was willing to suffer for us in the flesh, we should have the same attitude and strive to live for the will of God instead of the lusts of men. When we give up sins like lewdness, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, etc., those in the world make think it strange. Yet they themselves will give an account to Him who will judge both the living and the dead by the gospel preached to those who are dead (1-6).

OUTLINE OF 1 PETER 4

1. OUR DUTIES AS SUFFERERS FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE (1-6)

A. TO HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST (1-3)

1. Who suffered for us in the flesh
 - a. Therefore we should arm ourselves with the same mind
 - b. For he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin
 - c. That he should no longer live in the flesh
 - 1) For the lusts of men
 - 2) But for will of God
2. No longer doing the will of the Gentiles
 - a. Which we have done enough in our past
 - b. Walking in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, & detestable idolatries

B. NOT DAUNTED BY THE OPPOSITION (4-6)

1. They may think us strange
 - a. That you do not run with them in their reckless, wild living,
 - b. Speaking evil of you / heap abuse on you
2. They will give an account
 - a. To Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead
 - b. For which reason the gospel was preached to those who are dead
 - 1) That they might be judged according to human standards in regard to the body
 - 2) But live according to God in the spirit

2. OUR DUTIES AS THOSE WAITING THE COMING OF CHRIST (7-19)

A. To Pray, Love, And Serve (7-11)

B. To Rejoice And Glorify God (12-16)

C. To Trust In The Will Of God (17-19)

1. Suffering Produces the Mind of Christ (v.1-2)

Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin.

² *As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.*

What does “Therefore” refer to?

What is Peter saying we should “arm” ourselves with?

What does he mean by saying that “*whoever has suffered in the flesh is done with sin?*”

If you decide to live for Christ, is it inevitable that you will suffer for it? (**2Tim 3:12**)

What kind of sufferings do we face?

How can we replace our human desires (or living in the flesh) for the will of God?

How do we know what is the will of God for us?

2. From the Dead to the Living (v.3-5)

³ *For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.*

⁴ *They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you.*

⁵ *But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.*

What does verse three tells us about the past lives of Peter’s audiences?

What has changed? Why did it change?

Why are they surprised that Christians don’t join them in such sinful desires of the flesh anymore?

How do people “heap abuse” when Christians do not join in their sinful ways?

What does it mean that they will all have to “give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead?”

Who are the living and who are the dead?

3. The Gospel is Preached to the Dead?

⁶ *For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to human standards in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.*

What does Peter mean that this was “*For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead?*” What does it mean that they are “dead?”

What does it mean that they are to be judged “*according to human standards?*”