

**I. The Sight of Oppression (v 1a)****A.** What oppression is not

- 1) Oppression is not the existence of 'privilege'
- 2) Oppression is not the existence of natural/social hierarchy.
- 3) Oppression is not the existence of lawful authority (Rom 13:1)
- 4) Oppression is not the lawful wielding of lawful authority.
- 5) Oppression is not the silencing of wickedness.
- 6) Oppression is not something that is merely psychological.
- 7) Oppression is not determined by an individual.

**B.** The reality of oppression

- 1) What is oppression? (*WSC 64*)
  - a) Oppression between superiors and inferiors: *(i)* To lord over another (1 Pt 5:3); *(ii)* To be a hireling (Jn 10:12); *(iii)* To delay justice (Lk 18:2b-4a); *(iv)* To feed upon the sheep (Ezk 34:2b-3)
  - b) Oppression between inferiors and superiors: *(i)* To refuse honour to whom honour is due (Rom 13:7); *(ii)* To scorn and reject true authority (Mt 23:37-38); *(iii)* To usurp authority (Gen 3:16)
  - c) Oppression between equals and equals (*WLC 132*)

## 2) The universality of oppression

**C.** Uses from the Text

- 1) We must have a right understanding of oppression.
- 2) We must recognize the reality of oppression. (Psa 68:5-6)
- 3) We are to address real oppression and pain as Christians.

**II. The Sorrow of Oppression (v 1b).****A.** The tears and terror of the oppressed

- 1) The tears of the oppressed
  - a) There is a manner in which God is concerned with all men who are oppressed (Gen 4:10)
  - b) There is a manner in which God particularly cares for His suffering people: *(i)* As God Himself - Father, Son, Spirit (Psa 56:8); *(ii)* As Christ the God-man, Mediator, Friend (Acts 9:4-5)

## 2) The terror of the oppressed (Lk 16:25)

**B.** The strength and sorrow of the oppressor

- 1) The strength of the oppressor
  - a) Contrast between the oppressor's strength and the Saviour's gentleness (Mt 11:29)
  - b) Contrast between dominion and domination (Gen 1:28)
- 2) The sorrow of the oppressor (Ezk 18:23)

**C.** Uses from the Text

- 1) Let us consider by faith the suffering of Christ.
- 2) Look to the Lord, not to man.
- 3) Let us be devoted to mercy and compassion (Heb 13:3)

**III. The Seriousness of Oppression (vv 2-3).****A.** Commending the dead, who are better off than the living

- 1) What do all the dead have in common and to be commended?
  - a) They are neither under oppression nor even under the sun.
  - b) They have persevered through the entire life and faced a great trial which we have not faced, that is, death.
  - c) There is a judgment of charity which we are to have.
- 2) How the dead believer is praised, or commended?
  - a) Their death is precious in the sight of the Lord (Psa 116:15)
  - b) They are before the face of the Father (Psa 17:15)
  - c) They have rest from their labours (Rev 14:13)
- 3) How is even the dead unbeliever to be commended?

**B.** Those who have yet to be born are best off than the living/dead

- 1) Those who have not been conceived have not been subjected to sin and death which is a blessing not to suffer in this regard.
- 2) Those who have not been conceived will not be subjected to the present oppressions (Mt 24:19)
- 3) There is an anticipation of the coming of Christ and the blessing of living under the New Covenant (Jn 8:56; Psa 22:30-31).

**C.** Uses from the Text

- 1) We are not to live as though everything were okay all the time.
- 2) Here is a way in which we can sinlessly express the frustration and vexation of life (Jb 3:2; Phil 1:22-23)
- 3) Let us look to Christ who sympathizes with us in our weakness (Mk 7:32-35; Rom 8:23-25).