

Sharing His Sufferings and Glory (1Peter 1:10-13)

Introduction: *The trial of our faith*

They were being slandered, maligned, and intimidated. Their holy lives caused them to stand out, and they were being pressured to conform in their practice. This was the “trial of their faith.” Why? (1) Trials prove our faith to be genuine. (2) Trials make our faith appear genuinely beautiful and wonderful and valuable. (3) Trials refine the purity of our faith. (4) Trials result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1. Who is Jesus Christ? The one who suffered was glorified for us (v. 10-11)

Humiliation and exaltation. Suffering and glory. Jesus descends in his humility, and lives for us, and suffers for us, is obedient to the point of death. And therefore God highly exalts him and seats him on his right hand in universal glory. Compare the Apostle’s Creed, Isaiah 53, Psalm 22, Heb 2:9, Phil 2:7. “Angels in fix’d amazement // Around our altars hover // with eager gaze // adore the grace // Of our eternal Lover.”

2. Who are Christians? The ones who suffer and are glorified together with him (v. 12)

“The glory of the kingdom of God is attained only through participation in Christ, and belonging to Christ cannot but bring our participation in the sufferings of Christ” (Moo). “But rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy” (4:13). “If you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name” (4:16, NIV). “Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind” (4:1). “To this [suffering] you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps” (2:21, see Rom 8:16-17, Phil 3:10-11, e.g.).

3. How should we then live? Be ready, be sober, be hopeful of the grace to come (v. 13)

In the last generation, the people of God embarked on a project which has both decimated our ranks and had disastrous results in the church: to try to reach the world by saying, “We’re not any different from you after all.” That is not the Savior’s way (John 15:19-21). 1Peter 4:14, “If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.” “You will not get leave to steal quietly to heaven in Christ’s company without a conflict or a cross” (Samuel Rutherford).

Conclusion: *What is it that makes Christians distinctive?*

Christians are distinguished from other men neither by country, nor language, nor the customs which they observe. ... But ... following the customs of the natives in respect to clothing, food, and the rest of their ordinary conduct, they display to us their wonderful and confessedly striking method of life. ... They marry, as do all [others]; they beget children; but they do not destroy their offspring. They have a common table, but not a common bed. They are in the flesh, but they do not live after the flesh. They pass their days on earth, but they are citizens of heaven. They obey the prescribed laws, and at the same time surpass the laws by their lives. They love all men, and are persecuted by all. They are unknown and condemned; they are put to death, and restored to life. They are poor, yet make many rich; they are in lack of all things, and yet abound in all; they are dishonored, and yet in their very dishonor are glorified. They are evil spoken of, and yet are justified; they are reviled, and bless; they are insulted, and repay the insult with honor; they do good, yet are punished as evil-doers. When punished, they rejoice as if quickened into life; they are assailed by the Jews as foreigners, and are persecuted by the Greeks; yet those who hate them are unable to assign any reason for their hatred.” (Letter to Diognetus, Chapter 5, “The manners of the Christians”).