

The Why and How of *Living for the Will of God* in Times of Suffering

Background

Context [Recap 1 Peter 3:17 – 22]

- ✂ 3:17 – Value judgment: to suffer for doing what is good is better than to suffer for doing evil
- ✂ 3:18-22 – Christ's death, resurrection and ascension
 - 3:18 – Christ Himself suffered (to the point of death)
 - 3:19 – 21 – Peter assured his readers that God is faithful to save
 - using the example of Noah: even though they were few (8 in all) God saved them
 - through the resurrection of Jesus Christ [v.21]
 - 3:22 – Christ's ascension → vindication
- ✂ Christ's suffering and death is not a defeat but rather a victory

1 Peter 4:1 - 11

Peter resumed his exhortation on the response of the Christians under circumstances of injustice.

Why

Christ's salvation work and the subsequent regeneration of believers necessarily mean suffering [4:1 – 6]

1. Following the lord Jesus puts us in situations of suffering because we live for the will of God
2. Following the lord Jesus puts us in the position of vindication because people must account to God

How

In view of the Lord's coming judgment, live in a way that shows the transforming salvation work of God [4:7 – 11]

✂ THE END OF ALL THINGS IS NEAR (v.7)

- Luke 21:10-12; 34-36
 - Matthew 24:3 – 14
1. Think soundly and soberly so as to pray
 2. Love one another deeply
 3. Serve one another unreservedly

Think and pray...

1. The will of God means what God would approve of and hence His pleasure. Pray that we may seek God's approval and pleasure in how we live and especially in times when doing so bring about pain/ disadvantages to ourselves.
2. How does God's judgment of people play a part in your motivation to preach the gospel/ be ready to suffer?
3. What particular danger or imminent danger that comes with "the end of all things" do you face?
4. How does Peter's exhortation change how you
 - a. think and pray
 - b. love so that it is deep
 - c. serve so that it is unreserved?