

**GRACECHURCH**

# **THE PRIVILEGE OF SALVATION**

SUNDAY 21 JUNE 2020 | DANIEL WONG

## **1 Peter 1:1-12**

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, 2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, 11 trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

# SERMON NOTES

SERMON BY DANIEL WONG

## KEY PASSAGE TODAY: 1 PETER 1:1-2

### Introduction:

Written to believers scattered in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) who were experiencing sufferings and trials for their faith.

Peter reminds them of the preciousness of salvation.

### Outline of Chapter 1: 1 - 12

Verses 1-2: Letter from Peter to 'God's elect'

Verses 3-9: Believers in Christ have Living Hope

Verses 6-8: Rejoice; praise, glory and honour, inexpressible and glorious joy awaits

Verse 6: In the midst of suffering grief, and all kinds of trials

Verses 10-12: Believers are reminded of the preciousness of salvation

### Identity

Verse 2: God's elect "*chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus and the sprinkling of his blood*"

Strangers – Christian believers are strangers in this world, beliefs and values are different to the world

### Inheritance

Verse 3: *'given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead'*

Spiritual new birth (born again), and eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Verse 4: That "*can never perish, spoil or fade in, kept in heaven for you*"

### Inherent joy

Joy - *'in this you greatly rejoice'*(6), *'praise glory and honour'* (7), *'filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy'* (8)

In the midst of suffering *'though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials'* (6)

### Salvation

Salvation in Jesus Christ is written in the books of the Bible. There are clear references to Jesus as the Messiah in the Old Testament.

Salvation in Christ gives us 'living hope' in our present circumstance! (Hebrews 11)

# APPLICATION AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SERMON BY DANIEL WONG

Q1. How have you identified yourself as a Christian at home, at the workplace and amongst friends who are non-believers? How has your conduct and responses given a clear indication of your identity in Christ? (Further reference: 1 Peter 2 : 9)

Q2. In times of difficulty how have you appropriated the joy, peace and comfort that Jesus promises? Share how you have done so. (Refer Philippians 4 : 7)

Q3. With the assurance and knowledge that spiritual inheritance (new birth and eternal life) 'can never perish, spoil and fade – kept in heaven for you' how do you intend to share this truth with others?



**SALVATION IN CHRIST GIVES US 'LIVING  
HOPE' IN OUR PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCE**



# GRACE CHURCH

## THE LIFESTYLE OF SALVATION

SUNDAY 28 JUNE 2020 | PASTOR CLEM FUNG

### 1 Peter 1:13-25

13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.

15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." 17 Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear.

18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

24 For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

# SERMON NOTES

SERMON BY PASTOR CLEM FUNG

## **THE INCREDIBLE PRIVILEGE TO BE PART OF GOD'S FAMILY; AND AS FAMILY MEMBERS, TO BE BEARING THE FAMILY LIKENESS.**

Key passage today ... 1 Peter 1:13-25

Three paragraphs, three imperatives (commands)

### **vv.13-16 "set your hope fully on Christ"**

This is about your HEAD (what you think about) cf. v.13

Prepare for action, prepare to work hard ... dwelling on the right things

"Don't let the world squeeze you into its mould"

We are God's children (v.14); we should look like Him (vv.15-16)

### **vv.17-21 "live out your time as foreigners here"**

This is about your HEART (where you place value)

Redeemed at much higher cost than all the gold in the world

As precious to God as God's own Son

God will do for us, what He did for His Son

This world is not our home

### **vv.22-25 "love one another deeply, from the heart"**

This is about your HANDS (what you do)

Would you rather receive bubbles or diamonds, crayons or gold?

This life is very fleeting

There's only one thing we can take with us from this life into the next

To be like God, is to love cf. 1 John 4:7-21

### **Application:**

- God's family members ought to bear the family likeness
- Think His thoughts
- Desire what lasts forever
- Love one another

# APPLICATION AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SERMON BY PASTOR CLEM FUNG

**Q1** If someone were to follow you around for a day (or a week), do you think they would say they can see God's family likeness of Jesus in you? Why or why not?

**Q2** Do you think this life and this world are more important to you; or is your desire much more on your forever home and forever family with God? How can you tell which you treasure more?

**Q3** Is there one person in particular (in the family of God), that the Lord is challenging you right now to love them like Jesus? What is one practical thing you can do to show them that?



**EARTHLY SUCCESS IS TEMPORARY AND  
SENSELESS WHEN COMPARED TO THE ETERNAL  
GLORY WE SHARE WITH CHRIST.**

GRACECHURCH

# GROWING IN SALVATION

SUNDAY 05 JULY 2020 | FRANCIS KHOO

## 1 Peter 2:1-10

1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,  
a chosen and precious cornerstone,  
and the one who trusts in him  
will never be put to shame.”

7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone,”

8 and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.



# SERMON NOTES

SERMON BY FRANCIS KHOO

## **GOD'S DIVINE PLAN - TO ESTABLISH AND BUILD HIS CHURCH**

Key passage today: 1 Peter 2:1-10

### **1. The House of God. What God is building. 1 Pet 2: 4-6**

A Spiritual House

- Jesus is the Living Stone, the Cornerstone, the firm foundation of our faith (1 Cor 3:11).
- Believers are the living stones that form the superstructure, showing God's glory and truth to the world.

### **2. The People of God. 1 Pet 2: 5, 9-10**

Who God has made us to be (v 10).

- A chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession.
- A new race. Transcends racial or nationalistic identity. Chosen by God.
- A royal priesthood serving the King of Kings, with the privilege of direct access to God. (Hebrews 10: 19-22)

What is our Purpose? (v 5, 9)

- As priests, we are to offer the spiritual sacrifice of our whole lives to God as our worship. (Romans 12:1)
- Do not divide our lives into spiritual and secular compartments.
- Declare God's praises.
- Our core convictions - 4Ps.

### **3. Growing into Salvation. 1 Pet 2: 1-4, 7-8**

- Crave spiritual milk, consume it (v 2).
- Rely on Jesus (v 4, Matt 11: 28-30).
- Warning against rejecting God (v 7-8).

## **Conclusion**

1. Commit yourself to worship and serve God in every area of our lives.
2. Assess how we spend our time - earnestly desire spiritual milk to grow.
3. What part do you want to have in God's Church that will outlast this life?



# APPLICATION AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SERMON BY FRANCIS KHOO

**Q1a** If you are not a Christian, what are the questions you need answers to before you would consider accepting Jesus as Saviour and Lord?

**Q1b** If you are a Christian, what does it mean for you to be a living stone that God is using to build His House?

**Q2** How does the knowledge that you are a member of the holy priesthood of God affect your daily life?

**Q3** Is there evidence of racism in your community, in your family? As members of God's chosen people, what should our attitude be?



**GOD WANTS US TO USE EVERY PART OF OUR LIVES AS SERVICE TO HIM, OUR WORK, OUR HOME LIFE AND OUR SOCIAL LIFE. NOT JUST ON SUNDAYS AT CHURCH.**

# GRACE CHURCH

## GLORIFYING GOD IN THE WORLD

SUNDAY 12 JULY 2020 | MARCUS WONG

### 1 Peter 2:11-25

11 Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. 12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, 14 or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. 15 For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. 16 Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. 17 Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

18 Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. 19 For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. 20 But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

22 "He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 24 "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." 25 For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

# SERMON NOTES

SERMON BY MARCUS WONG

QUESTION: HAVE YOU EVER FELT LIKE WHAT YOU BELIEVE AND CONFESS ON A SUNDAY DOESN'T CHANGE WHO YOU ARE OR WHAT YOU DO ON A MONDAY?

## THREE WAYS TO LIVE A LIFE THAT GLORIFIES GOD:

### 1. We ask God to connect the dots

- “God” or “Jesus” mentioned at least 9 times in this passage!
- We are ‘foreigners or exiles’

### 2. We respect earthly authority because of a heavenly accountability

- Submit yourselves “for the Lord’s sake” and “in reverent fear of God”
- Our reverence for the Lord must still take priority over our submission to the authorities.

### 3. We expect and endure suffering for following Jesus

- Suffering is a part of our calling

The root of our problem is our \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus sets the perfect example of a life that glorifies God.

# APPLICATION AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SERMON BY MARCUS WONG

**Q1.** How has today's passage in 1 Peter 2:11-25 changed your understanding of submitting to authority?

**Q2.** How can you "connect the dots" in your everyday lives? In other words, how can God be involved from Monday to Saturday?

**Q3.** Is suffering for being a Christian something you think only happens in another country? What is your relationship or attitude towards suffering? What is God saying to you on this topic?



**JESUS SETS THE PERFECT EXAMPLE OF A  
LIFE THAT GLORIFIES GOD.**



# GRACE CHURCH

## GLORIFYING GOD IN THE HOME

SUNDAY 19 JULY 2020 | PASTOR RJ

### 1 Peter 3:1-12

1 Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behaviour of their wives, 2 when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. 3 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewellery or fine clothes. 4 Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. 5 For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, 6 like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

8 Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. 9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For,

“Whoever would love life  
and see good days must keep their tongue from evil  
and their lips from deceitful speech.

11 They must turn from evil and do good;  
they must seek peace and pursue it.

12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous  
and his ears are attentive to their prayer,  
but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

# SERMON NOTES

SERMON BY PASTOR RJ

INTRO: ROYAL VOWS

**1. Why it's hard to evangelise at home - authenticity.**

**2. What wins people to Christ at home - seeing a transformed heart.**

**3. How we get a transformed heart - setting our hope in Christ.**

CONCLUSION: MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS

Check out Ps. RJ's article "Is Peter allowing marital abuse for the sake of evangelism?"

# APPLICATION AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SERMON BY PASTOR RJ

**Q1. Do you agree with RJ's view that it is often our lack of authenticity at home that hinders our family members from believing the gospel?**

**Q2. Do you think people would define you more based on your outside appearance or your inner character?**

**Q3. What does it mean to truly put your hope in Jesus?**



**SET YOUR HOPE IN CHRIST**

## ***Is Peter allowing marital abuse for the sake of evangelism? A short reflection on 1 Peter 3:1-6.***

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Raphael Joson  
*B.Th, MA.Th*

This passage in 1 Peter 3, and that in Ephesians 5 in no doubt, throughout history has been used by men to manipulate and justify the moral subjugation of women. And for this reason, one commentator rightly commented that “many women do not hear this text in any other way than how it has been practiced by abusive men.”<sup>1</sup> A surface reading of the text might lead someone to the conclusion that wives are required to submit even to an abusive husband. Churches, also, have preached a similar message encouraging wives to endure in these relationships in order to lead their husband to the faith and please God. But is Peter actually encouraging early Christians to stay in such abusive relationships? And even so, does the text have modern authority to be applied today?

We have to acknowledge that the subordination of wives to husbands is done primarily for the Lord’s sake. The wives are to submit, firstly, because it is the best possible means for the husband to see and experience the transformative grace of God (3:1); secondly, the inner beauty of gentle and quiet spirit is of great worth in God’s sight (3:4); and thirdly, since Christian wives have been ‘adopted’ to God’s family they are to reflect his character and do what is right (3:6). The grounds of the wives’ submission are intently to glorify God and not for the husband’s sake as their society would have expected.

Secondly, if the glory of God is the primary concern then it can be argued that when a husband uses his authority to demand something that is clearly forbidden by God, then a wife should be free to respectfully disobey. The Lord’s ultimate authority is clearly higher than that of any individuals. This means that a husband’s authority over his wife is limited. She is not responsible to submit to her husband if it means disobeying God. To commit sin in obedience to her husband would be to disobey Christ, her higher authority. By doing so she would violate Peter’s earlier injunction to be holy (1:15). The nature of the wife’s submission needs a certain level of discernment in part in keeping with God’s character and will.

We can say, therefore, that this passage is not condoning abuse, nor commanding a wife to be passively submissive in a way that she can be prone to abuse in any form by her husband. The apostle Peter is not asking wives to act like a doormat in her relationship. Women are in no way inferior in God’s eyes and should therefore be treated equally and respectfully, especially in God’s created institution of marriage. In fact, the message of the Bible as a whole gives a consistent disapprobation to authorities that take advantage of their power to do harm but instead supports and encourages those who are vulnerable and oppressed.<sup>2</sup> It is therefore a misuse of biblical authority to encourage nor defend anyone (husbands, wife or parents) who uses these passages as grounds to be abusive in a relationship.

Thirdly, for most Christians are far removed from the setting, and culture that Peter is originally addressing. The wives in the letter live in dangerous situations at a time when they have very little resources, power and chance of escape. A number of commentators agree that 1 Peter 2:11-3:7 reflects the Greco-Roman culture codes, where appropriate status, roles and relationship of different groups within the civil and domestic sphere are set out.<sup>3</sup> The codes were designed to maintain order and harmony in the society, and therefore, conformity to them was regarded as a mark of good

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<sup>1</sup> Scott McKnight, *1 Peter, The NIV Application Commentary*, (Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 1996), 182.

<sup>2</sup> E.g. Deut 15:12-18; 24:14-22; Isa 3:13-15; Mic 2:1-2; 8-9; Matt 18:23-24; Jas 1:27; 1 Pet 3:7; 5:3.

<sup>3</sup> For example, see, *J.H. Elliot, 1 Peter* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2000), 486-487.



citizenship.<sup>4</sup> In this context women are generally seen as inherently deficient and were treated as socially inferior to men, and wives, therefore, were expected to be subordinate to their husbands.<sup>5</sup> Their social conventions gave husbands considerable power to intimidate and often abuse their wives. These historical and literary contexts suggest that one purpose of 3:1-6 is cultural accommodation in order not to be seen as disrupting or seen as subversive to the social order of the time. It is plausible that wives are told to submit, to be gentle, and silent because their religious expression may be seen as challenging the common way of life.<sup>6</sup> By being subordinate to their husbands, Christian wives can avoid unnecessary charges and answer those who accuse them of being socially and politically disruptive. By 'doing good' in this way the community will silence their critics (2:15), and submissive wives may even win their husbands to the faith (3:1-2). These verses thus offer a strategy for deflecting anti-Christian antagonism and promoting the church's mission. It is possible therefore to see the call to wifely subordination as purely pragmatic specifically for Peter's audience in the context of their culture and social norm.

The particular culture and situation limit the applicability of Peter's exhortation for Christians in the Western culture. In most part of the world, Christianity is not considered as a subversive threat to the social structure or political establishment, and especially where there are laws against domestic violence and safe alternatives for victims of abusive relationships. Christian wives who are able to find help and escape from an abusive relationship should do so because submission, subjection and silence (as recommended by the text) might not calm an abuser, but rather perpetuate the cycle and intensity of abuse, further endangering other family members in the relationship. Those who find themselves similarly stuck in an abusive relationship has no biblical reason to stay as a victim, for the historical and social context in 1 Peter is clearly different from theirs.

Arguably, what if there is no way out in an abusive relationship, and the modern reader finds herself in the same situation as the wives that Peter is addressing?<sup>7</sup> Does it mean that the person is to apply it directly in their life and endure the abuse he or she is currently in?<sup>8</sup> Though I am in no position to relate to this kind of experience, and therefore inexperienced to give such advice, I believe that the bible does exhort such person who might be *trapped* in a similar violent situation, to submit with a gentle and quiet spirit in order to display the purity and reverence in their life for the Lord's sake. This is not an easy message to grasp, but for those without other resources aside from God's Word then God's promises in his Word is what will hopefully sustain their harsh ordeal. And this is where Peter's gospel reminder throughout the letter comes highly valuable and useful in bringing hope and strength to a Christian's grim situation. Peter reminds Christians in this type of situation to suffer as Christ suffered; that though he was innocent he did not retaliate but instead entrusted himself to God who will judge justly (3:21-24) and through his suffering he brings redemption for those who put their trust in him. For Christian wives trapped in a violent relationship and there is *absolutely* no way out (especially legally), then quite possibly that God's Word through 1 Peter 3 is their only point of hope and redemption. This message can sound like making the best of a bad situation, but for those without escape often this is their reality. But I hope the other side of the coin is that it is a reminder for the rest

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<sup>4</sup> Elliot, *1 Peter*, 506-10.

<sup>5</sup> P.J. Achtemeier, *1 Peter: A Commentary on First Peter* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1996), 206-207; Green, *1 Peter*, 92; K.H. Jobes, *1 Peter* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academics, 2005), 185-186.

<sup>6</sup> Similarly, we can assume that wives are told to endure persecution in the same way Christ did and place their comfort and strength in their likeness to Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Here I am referring to some situations where their culture is still quite similar to Peter's audience – that men are deemed to be an inferior class than women.

<sup>8</sup> Of course, this is not just a hypothetical example for there are still pockets of society where Christianity is seen as a threat to their cultural identity and husbands have more legal rights than a wife, including physically disciplining her.

of us the need to speak out on behalf of families who suffer abuse and to care and protect abused children, women, and men – especially those in the household of God.

# GRACE CHURCH

## SUFFERING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

SUNDAY 26 JULY 2020 | PASTOR CLEM FUNG

### 1 Peter 3:13-22

**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, 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 symbolises baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. 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.

# SERMON NOTES

SERMON BY PASTOR CLEM FUNG

**A TOUGH QUESTION: WHY IS THERE SUFFERING?**  
SUFFERING IS INEVITABLE, BUT THERE IS A WAY THROUGH.

Key passage today: 1 Peter 3:13-22

## **vv.13-17, Why We Will suffer**

Expect suffering, especially if you are a Christian

If this seems irrelevant, it could be because

- Not now, but will
- Not here, but elsewhere
- Compromised?

## **vv.18-22, Christ the One That We Follow**

vv.18, 22 read like a Creed

The pattern of Christ: "No suffering, no salvation. No death, no life."

Cf. Matt 16:24-25

What to make of vv.19-21?

Cf. Gen 6:1-4; Eph 4:8; Col 2:15

## **Application: Four Practical Ways to Overcome and Not Be Overwhelmed**

1. Turn fear into worship (vv.14-15)
2. Be prepared to share (v.15)
3. Keep short accounts with God (v.16)
4. Be baptised (v.21)"

"Christ is exalted in triumph and glory, and we will follow Him to the same destiny."



# APPLICATION AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SERMON BY PASTOR CLEM FUNG

**Q1. There would be few who actually prefer suffering to not, but what motivation does Peter offer (what reward in store) for those who persevere to follow Jesus Christ, even through suffering?**

**Q2. Is there something you are suffering through right now? Of the four practical ways to overcome, does something stand out, and what might that specifically look like for you?**



**CHRIST IS EXALTED IN TRIUMPH AND GLORY, AND  
WE WILL FOLLOW HIM TO THE SAME DESTINY.**

# GRACE CHURCH

## LIVING FOR GOD, PERSECUTED FOR FAITH

SUNDAY 02 AUGUST 2020 | MARK LO

### 1 Peter 4:1-19

1 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. 8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15 If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. 16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 And,

"If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,  
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

# SERMON NOTES

SERMON BY MARK LO

## INTRODUCTION - WHAT DO WE LIVE FOR?

### Living for God

#### What does it mean?

- Suffering helps us to be more like Christ V1,2
- Changing life styles will be target for ridicule V3,4
- Changing priorities, changing emphasis in life!
- There will be judgement to come V5,6
- We should live expectantly! V7-9
- Faithful in service: everyone has some gifts – what are your gifts? V10,11
- Matthew 5:16

#### What does living for God lead to? – Persecution and suffering for our faith V12,13

- Persecution and suffering is to be expected – no surprise!
- Rejoice in the participation of the suffering of Christ

#### Consequence of living for God

- Differentiate between suffering for being a believer and for doing wrong V14,15
- Suffering is a blessing! V14-16
- No shame in suffering for His sake V16
- God's discipline and refinement starts with His church V17

#### God's refining discipline through trials and suffering (Hebrews 12:7) V17,18

#### 4 LESSONS FROM CHRISTIAN SUFFERING

1. Reminds us to live for God
2. Trains us to persevere
3. Prepares us and builds our character
4. Sustains us to stay faithful and trust Him with hope

#### Be encouraged if you suffer according to His will! V19

# APPLICATION AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SERMON BY MARK LO

**Q1. Why are we invited to participate in Christ's suffering?**

**Q2. Can you share your experience in feeling shameful and/or blessed in your Christian suffering?**

**Q3. Share your experience in suffering in general. What percentage of these sufferings are self inflicted and what percentage is genuinely related to your faith? Discuss.**



**BE ENCOURAGED IF YOU SUFFER  
ACCORDING TO HIS WILL**



# GRACE CHURCH

## THE KEY TO COMMUNITY

SUNDAY 09 AUGUST 2020 | PASTOR CLEM FUNG

### 1 Peter 5:1-11

**1** To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: **2** Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; **3** not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. **4** And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

**5** In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because,

“God opposes the proud  
but shows favour to the humble.”

**6** Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. **7** Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

**8** Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. **9** Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

**10** And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. **11** To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

# SERMON NOTES

SERMON BY PASTOR CLEM FUNG

## Recap so far

The Privilege of Salvation (1:8-9)

The Lifestyle of Salvation (1:15)

Growing in Salvation (2:9)

Glorifying God in the World (2:11-12)

Glorifying God in the Home (3:1-2)

Suffering for Righteousness (3:14-16)

Living for God (4:10-11)

## PASSAGE TODAY IS 1 PETER 5:1-11 - THREE KEYS TO COMMUNITY:

### vv.1-4, Good Leaders

Called to Care

- Willing, not begrudging
- Serving, not selfish
- Example, not lord

Application: Who are you called to spiritually care for?

### vv.5-7, Good Followers

Humility All Around

- To leaders
- To each other
- To God

Application: How's your attitude toward your Christian leaders? How's your attitude toward fellow believers? What does that say about your attitude toward God?

### vv.8-11, The Right Fight

Spiritual warfare is REAL

- Satan is real
- Resist ... how? (cf. James 4:6-10)
- Not alone

Application: (1) Get right with God, then (2) resist the devil in God's power; (3) never give up, and (4) don't do it alone.

# APPLICATION AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SERMON BY PASTOR CLEM FUNG

- Q1. Who is the Lord calling you to spiritually care for? Write down at least one name. Pray and ask God how you can care for and watch over them (v.2).**
- Q2. How's your attitude toward your Christian leaders? How's your attitude toward fellow believers? What does that say about your attitude toward God?**
- Q3. In terms of the right fight, which of these four things seems most helpful or needed right now? (1) Get right with God, then (2) resist the devil in God's power; (3) never give up, and (4) don't do it alone.**