Christ Also Suffered

1 Peter 3:18-4:6

Rejoice greatly while being grieved by various trials. Be holy in all your conduct. Love one another fervently. Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man. Be submissive. Be of one mind. Always be ready to give a defense for the hope that is in you.

It may be tempting to look at this list as a checklist - a sort of Christian walk evaluation form. But that mindset would open you up to legalism. God is not interested in our checking off boxes when it comes to our relationship with Him. He is looking for obedience that is fueled by love, a deep desire to wholeheartedly follow Him simply because we love Him.

Peter made it clear that as believers, we are a chosen and royal priesthood; this world is not our home. He laid out how to live as sojourners in a foreign land and warned that, on occasion, believers will suffer for doing good. He asked these persecuted believers to press on amid tremendous difficulty, and he offered up the purest and perfect source of inspiration – Jesus.

Read 1 Peter 3:18.

1. Record the first four words of verse 18.

_____

> ***Suffered*** – in a bad sense, of misfortunes, to suffer, to undergo evils, to be afflicted on behalf of a person

2. Think back. What were some of the reasons Peter encouraged these persecuted believers to press on while suffering?

1 Peter 2:12 _____

1 Peter 2:21 _____

3. According to 1 Peter 3:18, Jesus, the Just, suffered for the unjust. What motivated Him to rejoice greatly while suffering for sins He did not commit? (v. 18c)

_____

> ***Just*** – in a wide sense, upright, righteous, virtuous, keeping the commands of God; preeminently, of him whose way of thinking, feeling and acting is wholly conformed to the will of God, and who therefore needs no rectification in heart or life; in this sense Christ alone can be called just

Unjust – of one who breaks God's laws, unrighteous, sinful

Might Bring – to open a way of access, to render one acceptable to God and assured of His grace (a figure borrowed from those who secure for one the privilege of an interview with the sovereign)

4. Read the following verses and record what you learn about the access Christ's suffering has secured for those who accept Him as Lord and Savior.

Romans 5:2

_____

Ephesians 2:13-18

_____

_____

Hebrews 4:14-16

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_____

5. How does knowing Jesus suffered for you, so that He could bring you to His Father, inspire and motivate you to rejoice in various trials, to conduct yourself in holiness, to love one another, and to be submissive in obedience to God's Word?

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6. What two-fold process did Jesus go through on the cross? (1 Peter 3:18d)

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There are two schools of thought regarding the phrase, "made alive by the Spirit." In some translations, it reads "made alive in the spirit." The first indicates a physical death on the cross and the physical resurrection of the body on the third day by the power of the Holy Spirit. However, since ancient Greeks did not use a combination of uppercase and lowercase letters, the word spirit may not refer to the Holy Spirit but rather to the part of every human being (body, soul, and spirit) that is spiritually dead before accepting Jesus. In addition, the word translated "by" could also be translated "in," making the second a valid translation as well. This translation would mean that at some point while Jesus was on the cross, His human spirit experienced spiritual death ("My

God, why have you forsaken Me?") and was then made alive ("It is finished") and committed to the Father ("Into Your hands I commit My spirit.")

If the phrase refers to events that happened while Jesus was on the cross, then the following verses would describe what happened between His physical death and resurrection (v. 19-20) and between His resurrection and ascension (v. 21-22).

Read 1 Peter 3:19-20.

7. Break these two verses apart for clearer understanding.



vs. 19 He (Jesus) went and preached to the spirits in prison	
Where did Jesus go when He died? (Luke 23:43)	
Who were these spirits? (1 Peter 3:20a)	
When were these spirits disobedient? (1 Peter 3:20bc)	When once the...
	In the days...
	While the...
What also happened during the days of Noah? (1 Peter 3:20d)	In which a few, that is...

a. What two different words does Peter use to distinguish between the prisoners and those saved through water?

_____

NOTE: Some scholars believe the “spirits” spoken of in this verse are the people who refused to heed the words of Noah and were lost in the flood.

b. Read the following verses and record what you learn about these spirits who were disobedient in the days of Noah.

2 Peter 2:4

_____

Jude 1:6-7

_____

_____

Genesis 6:1-4

_____

_____

Preached – to declare as in the way of victory, to make an announcement, proclaim, publish (NOTE: The parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31 depicts a conversation happening across the great gulf in Sheol).

Sons of God (bene elohim) – is used 3 other times in the Bible (Job 1:6, 2:1, 38: 7) each time it is in reference to angels

8. **THINK:** Using the information above, how would you summarize what Jesus did after His death on the cross and before His resurrection?

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Read 1 Peter 3:21.

9. Read the following verses and record what you learn about Noah and the world at that time.

Genesis 6:5-8

_____

_____

Genesis 7:1

_____

Matthew 24:37

_____

Hebrews 11:7

_____

2 Peter 2:5

_____

10. **THINK:** What may have motivated Peter to mention Noah in his letter (besides divine inspiration, of course)? How can remembering the life and decisions of Noah encourage you in times of various trials?

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Noah and his family were saved from judgment by entering the ark. Likewise, we are saved by entering into the Ark of Jesus Christ. He is the vessel of our salvation from judgment. In addition, Peter points out another type found in the account of Noah and the flood waters.

11. What is the antitype Peter mentions in verse 21, and how does he describe what it is and what it is not?

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Peter made it clear that baptism does not have the power to save. It is, however, a picture of that which made salvation possible (the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ and the blood He spilled out on the cross on our behalf), and a public testimony of one's decision to follow Christ.

12. Where is Jesus Christ today? (v. 22)

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13. **THINK:** What do you think it would have meant to these persecuted believers to really know and understand that all angels (spirits), authorities, and powers have been made subject to Jesus Christ? What does it mean to you in your current situation?

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Read 1 Peter 4:1-6.

So here we are, on the other side of Christ's resurrection, waiting for His return. Life is hard, plagued with various trials, but we have been called to this, and Jesus has given us an example to follow. As we move through the final two chapters of this incredible letter, we will continue to see how we can strengthen our hearts and minds to rejoice greatly in various trials.

14. What is the first action we can take when we consider how Christ suffered for us?
15. (v. 1)

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15. **THINK:** What does armor provide and contribute to the person wearing it (be specific)?

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_____

16. Read the following verses and describe what these verses tell us about the mind of Christ.

Matthew 9:36

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Luke 5:16

_____

Luke 19:10

_____

Philippians 2:5-8

_____

1 Corinthians 2:16 tells us that believers are given the mind of Christ at the time of Salvation. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, our minds can be transformed and renewed, but we must continually present ourselves as living sacrifices to Him (Romans 12:1-2) and choose to arm ourselves with the mind of Christ.

17. How does choosing to arm oneself with the mind of Christ provide for or contribute to the life of a believer?

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18. What must we do before we are able to arm ourselves with the mind of Christ? (v. 1)

_____

19. **THINK:** How could a believer who continues in sin become a weapon for the enemy?

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20. Read the following verses and record how you can have victory over habitual sin.

Romans 8:11

_____

John 17:17

_____

James 4:7-8

_____

21. Having armed ourselves with the mind of Christ and cooperated with the Holy Spirit in ridding our lives of habitual sin, we are now free and prepared to do what? (1 Peter 4:2)

_____

22. Read verse 3 and record any areas where you continue to spend time or struggle with doing the will of the Gentiles (lusts of men).

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23. According to verse 1, why should you purpose to no longer spend time on these things?

_____

24. Fear over what friends and family will think can often hinder people from letting go of worldly practices. Sadly, this fear is warranted. What does Peter indicate will likely happen when you do? (v. 4)

_____

25. Peter encouraged these persecuted believers to do many things that did not come naturally under their current circumstances. Review what we have studied so far and remember a few of the reasons why we should commit to doing the same.

1 Peter 1:7

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1 Peter 2:9

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1 Peter 2:12

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1 Peter 3:1

_____

It can be difficult when friends and family see you as strange after surrendering to God's will, but, as Peter noted in 1 Peter 3:15, such times are often opportunities to share the Gospel with them. Keep in mind that when Peter wrote this letter, the judgment of men was literally sentencing Christians to death. If they could do it, we certainly can too.

26. Why is it important that we push beyond any feelings of fear or awkwardness and use these opportunities to share what the Lord has done in our lives? (1 Peter 4:5)

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The unsaved people in your life might judge you for your decision to follow Jesus and to stop certain behaviors, but more importantly, the Lord will judge us all. We have the hope that they so desperately need.

27. One more time, why do we take every opportunity to share the Gospel, even when we are being judged by the unsaved for our decision to follow Christ? (v. 6)

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It is better for you to be judged by men for following Christ than to be judged by God for choosing not to. Even if the judgment of men leads to physical death, you will live according to God in the spirit! Likewise, it is better for us to risk being judged by the unsaved in the hope that they will see God glorified in our lives and choose to make a decision for Him, and also live!

A Closer Look at Jesus at the Right Hand of God

1 Peter 3:22

28. Read 1 Peter 3:22. According to this verse, where is Jesus, and what does His position reveal about Him?

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29. We often hear of "the right hand of God," but what does it actually mean? The right hand of God is more than just a position. It proclaims many things about Him. What do the following verses teach you about the significance of God's right hand?

Exodus 15:6

_____

Psalm 20:6

_____

Psalm 48:10

_____

Matthew 26:64

_____

These verses reveal that the right hand of God is associated with power, strength, and righteousness.

30. Read Genesis 48:10-19. Here, Jacob (Israel) is blessing Joseph's sons. Note the importance of the right hand.

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In prophecy, the term "God's right hand" refers to the Messiah (Jesus) to whom is given power and authority.

31. Read Psalm 110:1. This verse literally says, "Yahweh says to Adonai." This is an amazing conversation between two Persons of the Godhead. What does this verse teach you about Jesus?

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32. Read Matthew 22:41-46. (Amplified Version) What is the position of the Messiah?

_____

34. Read Mark 16:19 and Acts 1:9-11. How is the timing of Jesus going to the right hand of the Father significant?

_____

The right hand is a place of honor, and the fact that Jesus is "sitting" indicates that His work of redemption is complete.

33. Read the following verses about where Jesus is now sitting: Romans 8:34, Colossians 3:1, Hebrews 12:2 and make note of anything that stands out.

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34. The right hand of God has meaning to us as well. Read the following verses. What do they teach you about the right hand and what it means for us personally?

Psalm 16:11

_____

Psalm 73:23

_____

Matthew 25:33-34

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35. Read Revelation 5:6-714 Here, we see Jesus as the Lamb, with God on the throne: a place of authority, rule, and absolute control. Summarize what happens with the scroll and the reaction that follows.

_____

36. Write down all you have learned about the right hand of God and what it teaches about Jesus.

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> … and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. - Ephesians 1:19-21