

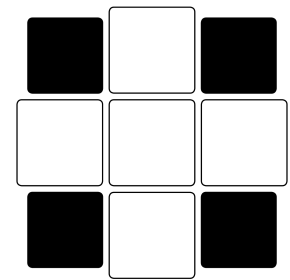
Gospel Hope in Suffering

Scripture: **1 Peter 3:8-22**

Series: **Standing in Grace**

Sunday, October 19, 2014

Corroborating Texts: Psalm 34:12-14; Romans 8:28; Philippians 1:29; Philippians 2:9-11; Matthew 16:24-27; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18



REDEEMER
FELLOWSHIP

Overview

As a suffering community, Christians should live with hope and courage in the face of an unjust world.

Discussion Questions

1. We see suffering throughout this world in everyday and global ways. What suffering have you witnessed, that has pricked your heart during the last week? Is there a meaningful way that you can respond to this suffering?
2. Read the list of traits in verse eight. How does your community group demonstrate these traits? Where can you (as a group or as individuals) grow in demonstrating these traits?
3. Look at verses 9-12. When have you really wanted to repay evil for evil? Everyone has suffered under injustice at some time. Did you repay with evil? Did you refrain? How? Being a peacemaker and peacekeeper furthers our holiness greatly. What are ways to make and seek peace with an unbeliever or a fellow Christian? What blessings might come from this?
4. Look at verses 13-17. How should Christians suffer in the face of injustice? [Honor Christ as holy. Have a ready defense with gentleness and respect.] What makes this so difficult for us? What is our hearts more inclined to do? [bitterness / anger] How can we protect ourselves from this?
5. What about when you are not faced with suffering? What can you do? What are some ways to relieve others' suffering? What might your lack of suffering indicate? [lack of courage] Do you need to repent of timidity? What is holding you back? Discuss Matthew 16:24-27.
6. Look at verse 18. This is the gospel. Let's rejoice in this truth now. How does this verse comfort us in the face of suffering? [Jesus has the last word (cf. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18) Memorize verse 18!]
7. Look at verses 19-22. Why should we not despair on interpreting this section? [We can be confident in letting Scripture interpret other Scripture.] What are the three main views? [1) Jesus preached in hell; 2) The gospel preached through Noah; 3) Jesus declared victory to the fallen angels.] How can this text encourage us? [God is victorious. God cares for us when we feel alone.]