



INTRO FOR NEXT WEEK

SUFFERING AS CHRISTIANS

PASSAGE OVERVIEW:

Peter anticipates the suffering these believers in Asia would increasingly face. His next words prepare them for what is coming. We too must be prepared. Being a Christian used to be viewed positively in America. That is no longer the case. As opposition to faith in Jesus grows, Peter's words are filled with hope.

First, he reminds them that God is in total control. Nothing catches Him by surprise. Nothing in our lives, or in the lives of unbelievers, is missed by His gaze. Regardless of what we see around us, He rules righteously.

Jesus suffered before us and for us. But now He reigns victoriously. Even the unseen heavenly powers are subjected to Him. Our Savior reigns.

In light of this truth, we live distinctly differently. We have a confident hope in how things will end. We live for the One who died and rose for us. So we live holy lives, given to Him and lived in righteousness. We gently, yet boldly share with others the reason for this hope that motivates our lives.

Christians should not be caught by surprise when hard times come. But we should not succumb with despondence into disobedience. Our hope is in our Father and Savior Who reigns. He has won and will win. Our hope never flags, because it is lodged in Him, not our circumstances.

READING FOR NEXT WEEK:

1 Peter 3:8 – 4:19

We display the Lord's surpassing worth by being subject to human authorities.

I. **Purpose** (2:13, 15-16)

Display the Lord's surpassing worth!

II. **Pattern** (2:21-25)

- A. Personal holiness. (2:22)
- B. Verbal purity. (2:22-23)
- C. He trusted His Father. (2:23c)
- D. His body was offered for the Father's purposes. (2:24)

III. **Practice**

- A. In society (2:13-14, 17)
- B. At work (2:18-20)
- C. In marriage (3:1-7)

How does this apply to me?



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