

RELATED SCRIPTURES

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 4.30.23

Job 42:1-6 | Romans 8:18-30 | Philippians 2:12-13

SUMMARY

When reading through 1 Peter, it's helpful to remember the greater context. The apostle Peter is writing a letter to Christian converts scattered about Asia Minor due to the profound persecution they are and will face at the hands of the Roman authority. In response to this suffering, Peter first reminds them who they are—a chosen people with a living hope and an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, unfading, and guarded in heaven by God himself (vs. 3-4). Then, with this *foundational* understanding, Peter calls them to action, "You shall be holy, for [God] is holy." On the surface, this does not seem like a solution for enduring persecution, but as Peter continues, it becomes increasingly evident how it does. First, we have the privilege of calling the Lord "Father," but Peter reminds the Christian that in addition to being our Father, he is the Supreme Judge; he knows the beginning from the end. God knows and *designed* suffering and persecution to not simply be byproducts of a fallen world but the means used to conform us to the image of his Son. Jesus was subject to suffering; through it and by his "precious blood," the Lord frees us from the oppression of sin and death. In other words, through the horrid actions of the cross, God gave us life. Suffering is a means of purification—making us like Jesus; we are walking in his footsteps, and God is making us like him. Yet Peter also provides the Christian a pathway for becoming holy when he states, "Having purified your souls by your *obedience* to the truth for a sincere brotherly love" (v. 22). Obedience to the Word yields holiness, and holiness yields obedience; they go hand-in-hand. Through no efforts of our own, the Lord saved us and justified us, and now he calls us to participate in the process of becoming holy—becoming like Jesus—by obedience to his Word.

GROUP QUESTIONS

From the sermon or your direct reading of 1 Peter 1:13-25, share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you.

What is holiness? What does it mean that God is holy? What does it mean that we should be holy as God is holy?

Does the idea of growing in holiness feel intimidating? What are some practical ways of growing in holiness? How can we actively participate in being made holy?

If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today's themes in what you bring before God.