



1ST

PETER

Encouragement to endure when life gets tough

“We have been seduced by success, and we will downplay confronting race and class barriers to grow churches quickly. Many evangelical church leaders believe that the best way to multiply churches quickly is to make the members feel comfortable rather than comfort them with the cross that breaks down divisions between God, us and others.

Churches cater to people's consumer passion of getting what they want, when they want it and at the least perceived cost to themselves.”

– Dr. Paul Metzger

Consuming Jesus: Beyond Race and Class Divisions in a Consumer Church.

1 Peter 3:19 - 4:11

After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits — 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 symbolizes baptism that now saves you also —

1 Peter 3:19 - 4:11

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.

1 Peter 3:19 - 4:11

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 —

1 Peter 3:19 - 4:11

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.

1 Peter 3:19 - 4:11

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.

1 Peter 3:19 - 4:11

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.

1 Peter 3:19 - 4:11

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.

MAIN IDEA:

If you want to experience victory over sin,
you must be willing to embrace suffering.

Three Biblical Examples:

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1) Noah

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2) Jesus

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2) Jesus

3) Peter

Three Reasons to Embrace Suffering for Christ:

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- 2) Suffering kills the desire to self indulge.

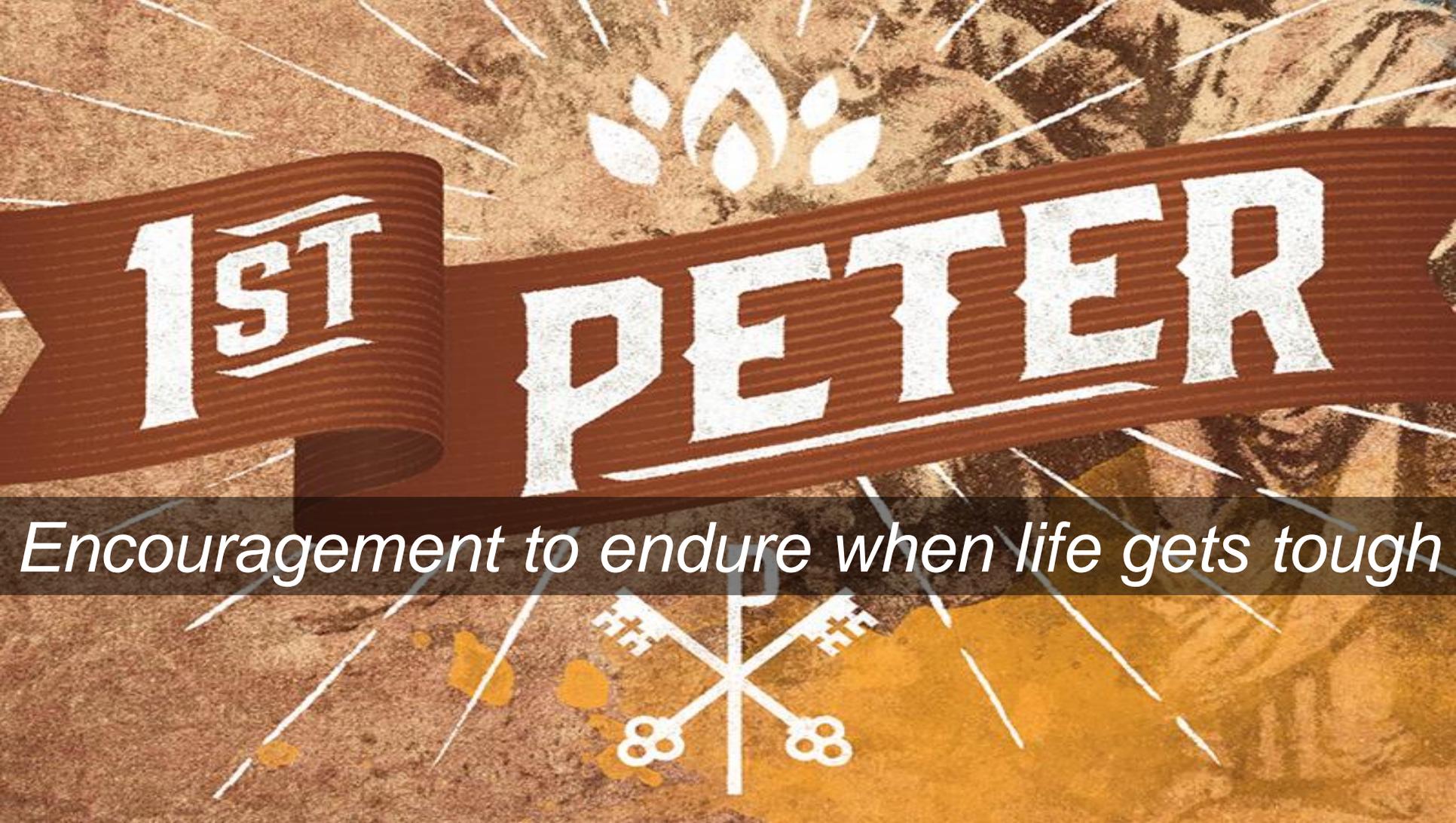
Three Reasons to Embrace Suffering for Christ:

- 1) Suffering forces us to look for a savior.
- 2) Suffering kills the desire to self indulge.
- 3) Suffering makes us mindful of others' needs.

"Jesus didn't come down to the Earth thinking, 'Everyone is going to love Me; everyone is going to worship Me; no one is going to reject Me.' No, He says, 'I came to serve and I knew I was going to give my life; I knew I was going to be rejected; this is what I came for.'

If we entered into our church gatherings thinking, 'You know, I am going there to give my life for these people; I am going there to sacrifice for them,' and we arm ourselves with that mindset, we are not going to be let down.

- Francis Chan,
Speech @ Liberty University Convocation



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