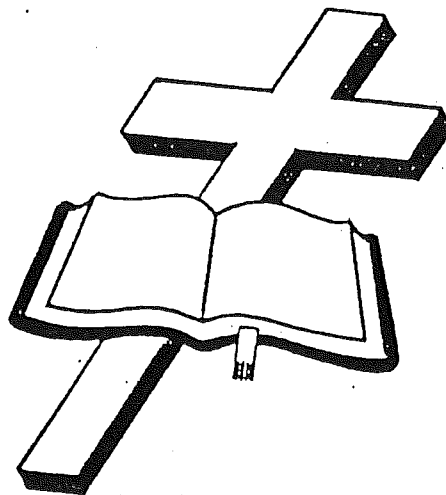


SUFFERING WITH OBEDIENCE

(How Our Pain Can Give Us Victory Over Sin)

I Peter 4:1,2



Jesus Is:

- ◆ Our Example
- ◆ Our Exhortation
- ◆ Our Encouragement

“For he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin” (I Peter 4:2)

Bill Kirk

“THE LEADER’S PAIN”

Text: I Peter 4:1 & 2

Subject: How to be “Armed and ready” so that pain will develop you (instead of discourage you).

“Since Christ suffered and underwent pain, **arm yourselves with the same attitude He did; for whoever suffers in the flesh has ceased from sin.** (Sin loses its power)” (v. 1)

“As a **result**, you won’t live your life following evil desires, but rather for the will of God” (v. 2)

Introduction

Fact: Every leader will experience unfulfilled expectations.

Fact: Every leader will experience spiritual warfare while growing in God.

Fact: Every leader will experience criticism and rebuke while serving God faithfully.

Fact: Every leader will either be better or bitter, (better off or worse off) after suffering in the flesh.

Question: How can our suffering be our friend in disguise?

Answer: Only by responding God’s way so that sin loses its power within our hearts!

(Never Forget...)

...that many who lead (and are crucified by others) drown in the floods of bitterness and depression.

(Why? Because...)

◆ ...suffering (in itself) never produces spiritual growth.

◆ ...growth **only comes** as we **obey God** in the midst of suffering. (Repeat)

Fact: When we submit to God, humble ourselves and deny our flesh, we will grow beyond our previous boundaries.

Fact: When we stew in our own juice, grow inwardly and justify unresolved anger, we fall prey to satan’s trap and our pain works against us.

Why Not Memorize (And Engraft) I Peter 4:1&2?

(It Makes A Healthy Leader’s Heart)

I. Our Example

“Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh” (which means:)

- ◆ Jesus suffered the ultimate degree for His obedience.
- ◆ Jesus denied Himself and refused to attack or defend.
- ◆ Jesus was hurt to bear our reproach of sin.
- ◆ Jesus remained steadfast and would not be detoured from the cross, (all for us!!)

II. Our Exhortation

“...Arm yourselves likewise with the same mind” (which means:)

- ◆ We must be armed (to defend against enemy tactics to get us sour and sidelined).
- ◆ We must be wise (to the temptation to retaliate and react when our flesh is wounded).
- ◆ We must be willing (to embrace the same mind of Jesus as He refused to be detoured).
- ◆ We must be faithful (to our calling in pleasing God and saving the lost from eternal damnation).

(over)

III. Our Encouragement

“...For he that hath suffered in the flesh **hath ceased from sin**” (which means:)

- ◆ To the degree we say “NO” to our flesh (to that degree we overcome sin).
- ◆ To the degree we move closer to Jesus in suffering (to that degree we can forgive our offenders).
- ◆ To the degree we obey God in our suffering (to that degree we’ll receive grace from above).
- ◆ To the degree we obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit (to that degree the desires of the flesh will lose their appeal).

(In Plain Vanilla)

- ◆ Healthy leaders build with the bricks that others throw at them!
- ◆ Healthy leaders (like Joseph and Jesus) allow their crosses to crucify their flesh instead of ruin their spirit).
- ◆ Healthy leaders allow their sufferings to purge them instead of destroy them.
- ◆ Healthy leaders know; if you are going to pursue vengeance, be sure to dig two graves!

Nuf Sed!

Bill Kirk, Pastor

REMEMBER LEADER:

- ◆ God has **His hand** on the devil’s hammer that hits you!
- ◆ God has done more **in you**, than life has done **to you**!
- ◆ God has an irreversible law at work in your life:

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it to accomplish **something good**, the saving of many lives” (Genesis 50:20)

**When my willingness to obey
God (and take up my cross)
becomes greater than my fear of
pain, to that degree sin loses its
power in my life!**

(I Peter 4: 1, 2)

**“To come to the pleasure
you have not, you must
go by a way in which
you enjoy not.”**

- St. John of the Cross