

Additional Notes:

Adult Sunday School (1 Peter) Lesson 7

1 Pet 3:8-22: **Submission in Suffering**

1 June 2025

Introduction

- In one way or another, to some degree or another, and at some point or another, every true Christian will suffer simply by virtue of being a Christian and living out the faith (Rom 8:17).
- This is not a generic suffering but a suffering for your attachment to Christ.
- What is there to enlighten, minister and comfort believers concerning their present sufferings, and fortify them against future sufferings they will experience for the sake of Christ and in the way of righteousness?
- Subsequent lessons
 - What we need to be equipped for a life of suffering (4:1-11)
 - The need to be steadfast in suffering (4:12-19)
 - Appropriate appeals to both leaders and members who are going about life in the context of suffering (Chapter 5)

1. General directives for a gospel-commending conduct (v8-12)

- Graces that mark our relationship to one another
- Graces that mark our response to those who oppose us
- Blessed incentives for such a conduct
 - The dominating desire
 - The imperatives
 - Activity of the tongue (Jas 1:26, Matt 5:37)

- Turn away from evil, and do good (Isa 1:16,17; Rom 12:9)
- Seek peace and pursue it (1 Pet 5:8, Luke 2:45)
- The divine assurance (Psalm 125:1, Psalm 73:18-20)

2. A heavenly standard commended in our suffering (v13-17)

- The blessed state of the godly who suffer for righteousness' sake (Matt 5:10-12)
- The required response of the godly to suffering
 - Negatively (Isa 8:12,13)
 - Positively (central duty): Sanctifying the Lord God in the heart
- 3 accompanying realities to the central duty
 - Constant readiness to give a reasonable response to all enquiries concerning our hope
 - A gracious, respectful and cautious demeanor in the manner we respond
 - A consistent, authentic Christian life before God and men as the context of our response
- The intended result
- The crowning encouragement
 - A word of comparison
 - Conscience (1 Pet 2:20)
 - Witness before the ungodly
 - The fellowship of Christ's sufferings (Phi 3:10)
 - A word of instruction
 - The sovereign will of Almighty God

3. Christ's experience in suffering and His universal authority (v18-22)

- Connection to Christ in His suffering
 - The similarity (Phi 1:29)
 - The exclusivity – vicarious suffering and atoning death
- Interpreting verses 19 to 21
 - cf. 2 Pet 2:5, Gen 6:18-19; 1 Cor 10:1-2
- Applications
 - Christ's preaching to a godless age (Gen 6:5)
 - Believers may be a mouthpiece of His grace to others
 - Christ's universal authority (Jn 17:24, Jn 14:3, Col 3:1)
 - His exaltation brings comfort to suffering believers