

# message

## hidden victory within suffering

EXILES | 1 PETER 3:13-22 | DECEMBER 5/6, 2015 | PASTOR MATT ERICKSON

"For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil." (1 Peter 3:17)

### Hidden victory within our suffering (1 Peter 3:13-17)

Suffering and doing good

Suffering and sharing hope

Suffering and character

### Hidden victory within Jesus' suffering (1 Peter 3:18-22)

Suffering that brings us to God

Suffering that proclaims the truth

Suffering that upholds God's authority

# study guide

- When have you seen God use difficult circumstances in your life to show you or others more about who He is? What happened?
- Our journey through 1 Peter, "Exiles," continues as we look at 1 Peter 3:13-22. Begin your study in prayer, asking God to speak into your life, and then read that passage aloud.
- One of the themes of 1 Peter is suffering that comes as a result of being a Christian. Peter continues with that theme in this passage. Based on what you read in verses 13 and 14, what would you say is the specific aspect of suffering that Peter is addressing?
- Make a list of some specific things Peter asks the believers to do in the midst of their life as exiles for Christ in verses 14-17. Which of these is most difficult for you? Why is this the case for you?
- As with other sections the letter, Peter ties his words about suffering into Jesus' life and, particularly, the resurrection. From what Peter writes in verse 18, how do Jesus' life, death, and resurrection provide a type or example for believers as they suffer for Christ?
- Verses 19 and 20 are some of the most debated and confusing verses in this letter. Take some time to consider what Peter is saying here. How do you think these verses help support or illustrate the theme of suffering in the midst of doing good?
- Verse 21 on baptism echoes the words of verse 16 about having a 'clear conscience' before God. How does baptism illustrate our salvation and clearing of our conscience?
- How might Peter's words in verse 22 about the victory and authority of Christ encourage the believers who are suffering?
- What is one specific thing you sense God is speaking to you through this study? If you are with a small group, discuss that with one another and pray about what you share together. If you are studying on your own, write it down, pray about it, and share this with someone during the next few days.

[Next week: We continue our "Exiles" series by looking at 1 Peter 4:1-11. Take some time to read the passage ahead of time and reflect on what God is saying to you.]