

HOPE IN SUFFERING

For the week of October 25, 2020

Full message available at highpoint.church/currentseries

“Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. For

“Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.” -1 Peter 3:8-22

MESSAGE POINTS

1. Hope is found as we stick together v 8
2. Hope is found as we stay together vv 9-12
3. Hope is found as we stand together vv 13-17
4. Hope is found as we're sealed together vv 18-22

THE GOAL

To discover that we find hope when we stick together in community even when we're suffering for our faith.

GET GOING

- Have you ever experienced a time when you were misunderstood for your faith or when your faith cost you something? A job, a relationship, etc.
- When experiencing suffering because of your faith what is the difference between walking that journey alone or alongside other Christians?
- Looking at the list in 1 Peter 3:8 how can we better stand alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ? In what ways can we better stick together?
- Peter writes in verse 15, “in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect” How often do people ask about the hope that is in you? Why do you think that is?

KEEP GROWING

- Read Matt 10:16-33
- Jesus sends out his disciples and promises them that they will be persecuted because they are of the household of God. What does he encourage them to do?
- In the passage we are told not to be afraid of what to say and not fear what people might do to us physically but why do we still remain silent about our faith at times?
- In what ways can we acknowledge God before others?

GET GROUNDED

- Take time in your group to share any struggles, difficulties, temptations or areas of your faith and family life that you want to work on and grow in.
- Reflect back on what you have committed to do in this season. How is it going? Have you been able to do what you set out to do? If not, what has gotten in the way? What do you need to adjust to get back on track?
- How can we specifically pray for you in these areas and in relation to what we studied this week?

MEMORY VERSE

“But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.” 1 Peter 3:14-15 -