

**Sermon:** Unity, Suffering, and Blessing with Hope  
**Series:** 1 Peter: Hardships, Holiness, and Hope

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 3:8-17  
**Date:** October 25, 2020

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**OBSERVATION** -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

**INTERPRETATION** -- Answer these questions together:

**1) What does this passage teach us about God?**

a) Read verse 17. Why would it be God's will for us to suffer at times? How does this connect to the presence of God in verse 12? How does it connect to our unity in verse 8?

**2) What does this passage teach us about us (mankind)?**

a) Read verse 8. How is our unity in Christ described here? Does this verse describe our church? Does it describe you?

b) Read verse 9. How does the gospel allow us to live free from vengeance, and rather, as being a blessing? How can you actively bless others, even enemies (be specific)?

**3) What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?**

a) Verse 15 tells us to "honor Christ as Lord." How does this command to honor Christ as Lord tie together the whole passage (our unity, our suffering, our response to suffering, our witness, etc.) Is there any part of your life that is not honoring to Christ as Lord? How does knowing that Christ is Lord give you renewed hope today?

**APPLICATION**

a) How do we live out our faith in the midst of suffering (v15-16): 1) Do good, 2) Honor Christ as Lord, 3) Share hope. Are you living a balanced life of doing good and also sharing hope with others (deed and word)? Where might you be able to share the hope of the gospel with others?

**FIGHTER VERSES: 1 Peter 2:9-12**

**PRAYER**

Honor the lordship of Christ our servant king.

Thank God for the blessing of his presence in suffering.

Confess ways that you have responded to suffering or persecution with anger, vengeance, or reviling.

Ask God to give you opportunities to share the hope of the gospel with others.