

Life Group Notes

Sunday 15th March 2022

Speaker: Clayton Chettiar

Title: 1 Peter: The Hope that is in You

Passage: 1 Peter 3: 13-22

“Jesus has the last word on everything and everyone, from angels to armies. He’s standing right alongside God, and what he says goes.” 1 Peter 3:22 MSG

The Hope that Peter says is possible for us today is because of Jesus – hope even in the midst of hardship. “So, get ready,” Peter says, “because we can see the end; Jesus is the Victor, and we are victorious in him.”

Our circumstances can make us ask if that truth is really a truth at all. We look at our current situation in Ukraine and ask ourselves why Ukrainians have to endure this or more especially our Christian brothers and sisters in the Ukraine. Yemen, Myanmar, and Syria that are not currently making the news.

But that’s nothing new. The circumstances these early Christians found themselves in may have, at times, felt a lot more like defeat than salvation. Their circumstances told them they were on the wrong side of life. A belief structure that was counter cultural. They were powerless against a culture of power. They were vulnerable to abuse and had already suffered much abuse because they bore the name “Christian.” So, even if they were the new people of God (as Peter said 2:9-10) they were a suffering people.

It’s hard to see a good ending when we suffer for the sake of Christ today.

What type of antagonism or rebuke do you experience as a Christian in the world today?

The chasm here in the West between Christian values and progressive secular ones is widening not shrinking. So, what are we to do? No doubt we will face increasing pressure from various corners of society to get with the program to bend our outdated views. But risking our views is not an option as Bible believing Christians, is it? The moment we do that we cease to be Bible believing Christians. So, what should we do? How should we respond to people's animosity against us simply for believing God's word, and trying to live in line with it?

And in his victory, we belong to him no matter what our circumstances tell us otherwise.

God’s purpose to sit Christ on the throne in fulfilment of His promised victory was not only unhindered by Christ’s sufferings but was fulfilled by Christ’s sufferings.

So, when we are confronted with other fearful and troubling circumstances we can keep them in their proper place, too. They must ultimately serve the will of the one who reigns overall.

Questions:

1. What type of antagonism or rebuke do you experience as a Christian in the world today?
2. How do we manage the increasing divide between what we believe and what the world believes?
3. How do we remain Bible believing Christians?
4. How do we confront our fears?
5. How do we share our hope that is in us with those that ask why we hope in the first place?
6. What other practical things can we do we help the refugee situation around the world?