

17 Mar 2013: Preached by Dr Jeffrey Khoo

Topic: **The 1st Epistle of Peter – Our duties to suffer for righteousness sake**

Scripture Text: 1 Peter 3: 13-4:6

1. Now that we have the Lord Jesus Christ in our lives, we will go through our sufferings differently from the world. We don't go through it alone, but we have the Lord Jesus by our side. He understands us as He suffered too when on earth. He was tempted like as we were, yet without sin. We find our comfort from God's Word and the Holy Spirit.

2. When we suffer, it must be for good and not evil that we did. If we are law abiding citizens, we need not be afraid of the law coming after us. But there are times where we have to suffer for Christ's sake, then happy are we indeed. We do not give up our faith during sufferings and this is a prove that we are a sincere believer of Jesus Christ. Persecutions make us stronger in the faith, and not more depressed or sad. When bad things happen, we will be driven to prayer and the Word of God will comfort us.

3. When we suffer for righteousness sake, we do what is the right thing before the sight of God. We do not seek to destroy anyone's life although we might be hated by others. If what we are doing is right, we can be happy. Even within the church, there may be enemies who will seek to destroy us. We need not be afraid. God will protect and preserve us.

4. We must sanctify the Lord God in our heart. Fill our heart with the Words of Jesus so that we can face whatever comes to us.

5. It is a small price we pay for having Jesus as our Saviour and Friend. The temptation and pressure we face is very great in the world and if we have to suffer, count ourselves happy for righteousness sake. When we suffer, we need to fully depend on Jesus Christ. We hold to Him as our supreme example. Our God is the same God yesterday, today and forever. He'll be there to help us go through our trials. Sufferings in our life will cause our faith to change from inexperienced to experienced faith.