

Why would each of these things be important when Christians are suffering opposition from unbelievers?

How does today's passage challenge you?

How does it encourage you?

Pray for each other: that we will be prepared to live differently to those around us, and to follow Jesus' example in suffering.

Memory verse

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God." **1 Peter 3:18**

Talk outline

The Big Idea

- The Christians that Peter is writing to are a _____ .
- Because they have decided to follow Jesus, people around them are treating them _____ .
- This is a difficult situation for the Christians. There is a _____ to give up on Jesus, and go back to their _____ .
- Peter is writing to encourage them to _____ for Jesus.

A message for the not-yet-Christians

- The _____ of all things is near.
- Everyone will have to _____ on the final day.
- There is a way to _____ this judgement of God.

A message for the Christians

- Expect some _____ for being a Christian.
- When hardships come you will be tempted to go back. Decide that you are _____ . Instead, live your life for the _____ .

In particular:

- a) _____ c) _____
- b) _____ d) _____



Jesus' suffering & glory

1 Peter 3:18-4:11

The letter so far...

This semester we are reading 1 Peter – a letter from the apostle Peter, to Christians scattered throughout Asia Minor in the mid-60s AD. Peter writes to encourage them (and us) to stand firm in God's grace during our temporary stay in this world (5:12). As Christians, we can look forward to our heavenly inheritance with certainty, because of Jesus' resurrection. Being a Christian means being part of a loving family, growing through God's word and making God known to others. As "foreigners" in the world, Christians are to follow the example of Jesus in how we live and relate to the world around us, especially as we suffer for doing good.

Icebreaker

What would you do if you knew the world was going to end soon?

Read 1 Peter 3:18-4:11.

Are there any difficult words here?

Righteous: People who are in a right relationship with God.

Pagans: People who don't know the real God.

Debauchery, orgies, carousing: Wild parties, indulging in excessive eating, drinking and sex, without self-control.

Idolatry: Worshipping or trusting something other than the real God as your "god".

Jesus' suffering and victory (3:18-22)

v18. What was the purpose of Christ's suffering?

Who is "the righteous"? Who are "the unrighteous"?

What happened after Jesus' suffering?

Look back at **v17**. How is **v18-22** a comfort to Christians who are suffering for doing good?

Verses 19-22 are tricky to understand, and there are many different interpretations. The story of **Noah**, from the Old Testament (Genesis 6-9) is an example of a time when God sent judgment on the world for its wickedness but saved Noah's family, who were faithful despite being a small minority surrounded by unbelievers.



Two ways to live (4:1-11)

Read 1 Peter 4:1-6.

How is Jesus' suffering

- similar to ours?
- different to ours?

Can you think of any times during Jesus' life on earth when he had to choose between living for God (and suffering), and living for human desires?

What was the behaviour of Peter's readers like in the past (v3)?

Since they have become Christians, how do others around them react to their new behaviour (v4)?

What about you? Is your own life and behaviour different

- to your life before you were a Christian?
- to the lives of your non-Christian friends or family?

How might v5 help Christians to cope with opposition from others?

Read 1 Peter 4:7-11.

"The end of all things is near"... What does this mean?

What difference does this make to your life and attitude?

How should Christians treat each other? What do these things mean?

v7

v8

v9

v10-11