

What are the 2 ways of suffering, in **v17**? Which is better? Why?

How is the Christian life similar to what Jesus experienced?

When suffering comes, what truths do we need to remind each other about?

v15-16. What should we always be prepared for?

Why do you think these things are important for our witness to be effective?

- gentleness and respect

- clear conscience

Which part do you need to work on the most?

Pray for each other, and for Christians around the world who face suffering and opposition.

Memory verse

“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” **1 Peter 3:15**



Suffering & blessing

1 Peter 3:8-17

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, and keep going despite suffering as God gives us faith until we get there. 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.

Icebreaker

Have you ever suffered as a consequence of doing the right thing?

Suffering and blessing

Read 1 Peter 3:8-17.

What five qualities should Christians have in their life together (v8)?
In your own words, what do they mean?

When Christians are treated wrongly by others, how should they respond?
What must they **do**?

What must they **not do**?

Why should we act this way, according to this passage?
(Notice words such as “because”, “for”, “so that”...)

Righteous: People who are right with God (through faith in Jesus).

Blessing: God’s favour shown to someone.

In **v10-12**, Peter is quoting from **Psalms 34** in the Old Testament. This Psalm was written about a time when God’s king David was persecuted despite his right behaviour.

Optional: Read Psalm 34.

What does God do for his people?

How does this Psalm support Peter’s message?

What kind of suffering or opposition might you face as a Christian –
• in your life now?

• if you return to your home country?

What fears do you have when you think about these things?

What do you think it means to “set apart Christ as Lord” in your heart (v15)?

How might this help you overcome your fears?