

I Believe; Hope in Suffering

Jim Burgen Week 3

August 14th, 2022

// Bible References

1 Peter 1:3-9

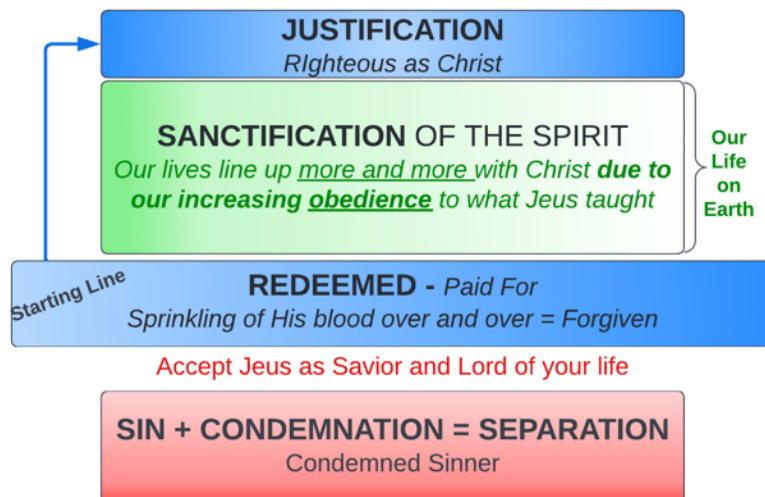
// Other References: <https://www.stepbible.org/>

// Sermon Summary

Christians are being prepared for God's eternal glory (Sanctification-see diagram below)

- Trials are a pathway God uses for sanctification
Trials Meet Needs – God knows when we need to be matured/purified through trials
- Trials are Varied – “grieved by various trials”; God knows what trials will help us the most
- Trials are not easy – compared to being tested as gold in fire; the word for grievous in this verse is the same level of difficulty used about Christ's anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane.
- Trials are controlled by God – “for a season” and “if necessary” – God is in control, even our trials

We might think our faith is solid but through trials, we see what we are really made of regarding the “genuineness of your faith”. This helps us focus our faith on God and not on that which will be burned up during the refining process he allows us to go through for our good.



// Community Question

1. Tell about a time where you endured difficulties in an adventure (sports, school, work, relationship, home project, etc.) but kept going because the end goal was worth it. How did keeping the end goal in mind help?

// Discussion Questions [all scripture references are from 1 Peter 1]

1. "Crisis doesn't make the man; it reveals the man." Describe a time where you put much energy and time into something but later on it failed. (For whatever reason).
What was revealed in that crisis of failure?
What happened to your faith that was put into that "something" that ended in "crisis"?
How did your faith in God impact that scenario?
2. Compare 1 Peter 1:7 to James 1:2-4, and give two reasons why God permits Christians to face troubles/trials?
In light of these facts, why can a Christian be joyful in adversity? (v. 6-9)
What are some differences between trials and temptations?
3. How do things we inherit on earth compare to our spiritual inheritance? (v. 4,5)
Where are they kept? Who keeps them? Does their quality or condition remain the same? What thing or power keeps them safe? How long do they last?
4. Jim asked a rhetorical question in his talk: How much of your income are you spending on things that break down or have false hopes of fixing something in your life versus things that help other people or the church? That is a tough question. Why?
Has that ratio changed as your faith has grown?

"What percentage of your income are you spending on depreciating, perishable, breakable, fading purchases that won't mean anything 1-2 years from now...and how much does figuring out how to pay for it hoping it will fix something missing in your life...in your marriage...in your relationship with your kids...which it never has been able to fix yet...compared to...what percentage of your income are you intentionally pointing towards the things that God cares about...and I know that God cares that your family eats and sleeps indoors and enjoys life...but, how much of your income is being invested in helping other people...or even your own heart, marriage, family...enter into the same hope that you have been given by Jesus?"

5. Peter urges to not get caught up in looking around in our trials but to look ahead. (as he learned from walking on the water)
So...how does one do that? Have you done that and what difference did it make when you kept an eternal perspective?

// **Challenge:** Think of a trial that you have been through and is over. Think of the good you can see now that came from it. Now focus on a current trial and pray for God to teach you what you need to learn in this trial so you can be more like Jesus.