

FIRST PETER

(PART 15)

"REJOICING IN PAIN"

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All of us suffer pain in this life. It is a factual, unavoidable part of life, and frankly, much of the pain we all suffer while we are here on this earth is an emotional pain --the type of pain that causes us to "hurt" deep inside. It gives us a stomachache at times and, on other occasions, it causes us mental stress. It can eat away at us for days and cause us to act irrationally. Nobody prays for this kind of pain.

So, to what kind of pain are we referring? What kind of emotional pain is so devastating? Now note this: It is the pain that comes from rejection or slanderous speech. It is experiencing degradation and character assassination through unkind words. It can be terrible pain.

As believers, we have all gone through these kinds of painful situations, haven't we? Thank God there is a way to work through the pain and live a victorious Christian life!

SALVATION AND PAIN

I PETER 1:6

- Remember the context of this book:
 - Written to suffering believers.
 - These believers had gone through terrible persecution.
 - Their distress was constant and from all sides.
- Their suffering was a “breeding ground” for volatile relationships.
- Much emphasis is given in this letter to interpersonal relationships.

(Note these verses: 1:6, 14, 17, 22, etc.)

KEY THOUGHT

- We are to be so “caught up” in the facts of our salvation that we are able to work through the pain of life.

OUR SALVATION

- We are to greatly rejoice in our salvation.
 - The term “this” refers to salvation in verse 5.
 - Greatly rejoice = To jump for joy or be extremely glad.
- However, we must know and understand our salvation or we can't rejoice in it.
- To greatly rejoice, especially when in pain, we must know what Christ did to “redeem” us.

JESUS CHRIST DID NOT DO THIS TO SAVE US

THEORY #1 = The Deception Theory

Christ deceived Satan to receive the souls of sinners.

VIEW = A ransom (Christ's death) was given to Satan - Satan did not realize Christ would rise again (tele-evangelist's view)

THEORY #2 = The Great Example Theory

Jesus's death was a radical expression of love, wonderful example, but does not pay any price for anyone. Why? God's justice demands no actual payment for sin.

VIEW = Why? God's justice is overshadowed by His love (Sin no big deal with God) (Modern day liberals)

THEORY #3 = The Exhibition Theory

God Himself requires no payment for sin, but public justice does require some token or display to show God despises sin.

VIEW = Christ's death was a display to the world to show God's wrath against sin.

JESUS CHRIST DID THIS TO SAVE US

1. Jesus Christ was our substitute. (*2 Corinthians 5:21*)
2. God the Father imputed (to blame) the guilt of our sins to Christ.
3. Jesus Christ made the full payment for our salvation. (*1 John 2:2*)
4. Christ's payment satisfied the wrath and righteousness of God.

FINAL THOUGHTS

- As believers, we should be so overwhelmed and appreciative about our salvation that we triumph through pain.
- Just the thought of being saved should shape our lives daily.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

1. How many times in an average day do you actually meditate on what Jesus Christ did to save you?
2. Does the thought of your salvation humble you or move you at all?
3. Go to at least two people this week (saved or unsaved) and tell them how deeply you are moved by the fact that Jesus Christ saved you.
4. If you spend more time thinking about your pain than the wonderful provision of salvation, would you be willing to get spiritual help?

MEMORY VERSES

- LEVEL 1 = I Peter 1:3-4
LEVEL 2 = I Peter 1:3-9
LEVEL 3 = I Peter 1:3-9, 13-25