

## SERIES: "CHOSEN AND EXILED" - - 6/2/24 (#6) PASTOR LEE

We Will  
Encounter  
Injustice.

- Pastor Lee pines for those moments in our lives (eg. the the beauty/quietude/delight of a carefree walk in the woods) when all in this world seems right! But almost instantly recognizing the 'fleetingness' of that euphoric feeling.
- In that realization, we know that: 1. There are (foolish) people who will upset this world/our reality, and 2. We- -and people around us- -will experience unjust suffering (of any sort) impacting our lives. These are 'givens'- -how we respond is important!
- Peter's original audience were new in their faith and about to be tested by such people and face unjust suffering - -resulting, potentially in doubts of faith, God, etc. Peter's message, in this first letter is: '*endure during these difficult times*'. We believers already accept/love that God is a 'game changer' in our lives....endure in His love and strength!
- So and in equally in today's world, how do you endure when you deal with ignorant/foolish people and/or unjust suffering.
- See these scriptural references to the description of "fools":

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Proverbs 20:3 - - *Every fool will be quarreling.*

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Proverbs 10:23 - - *Doing wrong is like a joke to a fool*

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Proverbs 1:7 *Fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

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Proverbs 18:6-7 *A fool's lips walk into a fight and its mouth invites a beating. A fool's mouth is his ruin, and his lips are a snare to his soul.*

How Respond?

- Unjust suffering: even as kids we experienced some level(s) of injustice. Could also manifest itself out of, as examples, family abuse, illness, accident, divorce, etc....eliciting a "why me, Lord" response.
- Peter's provides guidance regarding the integration of our faith- -in preparing to respond to the all-too-predictable foolish people/injustices whom Peter's people, as well as us today, encounter:

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1 Peter 2:12 *Keep your contact amongst the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evil doers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. (13) Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, (14) or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. (15) For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.*

(16) Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover up for evil, but living as servants for God. (17) Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. (18) Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the unjust. (19) For this is a gracious thing, when mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. (20) For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God (21) for to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps.

Set It Aside:

- ① Do Good
- ② Love People
- ③ Endure
- ④ Imitate Christ!
- ⑤ Commit

- V 12-15 - - sets the foundation....keep the course....do the right thing! DO GOOD!!! "Be subject (voluntarily come under) to every institution"....rulers, gov't leaders, bosses (good or bad). It is the will of God. Note: Be aware that you, yourself, could be representative of an (whatever) institution. Love people....treat them well!
- V 16-18 - - live as free people (sounds so counter)- - Pastor Lee uses the "free dog" metaphor. ...get out there, with all joy, and just do the right thing (modeling) and leave the rest in God's hands. Honor everyone (just or unjust leaders, etc.)...as a Christ-follower, love everyone while fearing God. Do this despite all the everyday challenges in your job, your family, your finances, etc. Let God just touch your soul....He is faithful. You WILL ENDURE. Don't quit...Chose Jesus....ignore foolish people...do it God's way....do it right...do good....don't quit....endure....God will see it...glorifying Him.
- V 19-21 - - Endure injustice/suffering just as Christ did. If Christ, without sin, would suffer for us, how could we not endure suffering ourselves? Out of this struggle is meaning ...helps make you the hope-filled Christ-follower that you are.
- Bottom-line, When we suffer unjustly, we are most like Jesus! Our whole mind-set is changed...see the hope and joy that is gained through endurance...to be right with God..... to be saved in Him.
- Endurance: don't walk away....don't leave....family relationships, friendships, marriages, jobs, even our Church. Instead and realizing there is suffering in God, commit!...following Christ's example (V 21)

Christ As

- Modeler
- Healer
- SAUIOR

1 Peter 2 : 22-25 - - He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth. (23) When He was reviled, he did not revile in return; when He suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to Him who judges justly. (24) He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. (25) For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepard and Overseer of your souls.

\*\*\* BRING YOURSELF TO THE SHEPHERD OF YOUR SOUL \*\*\*