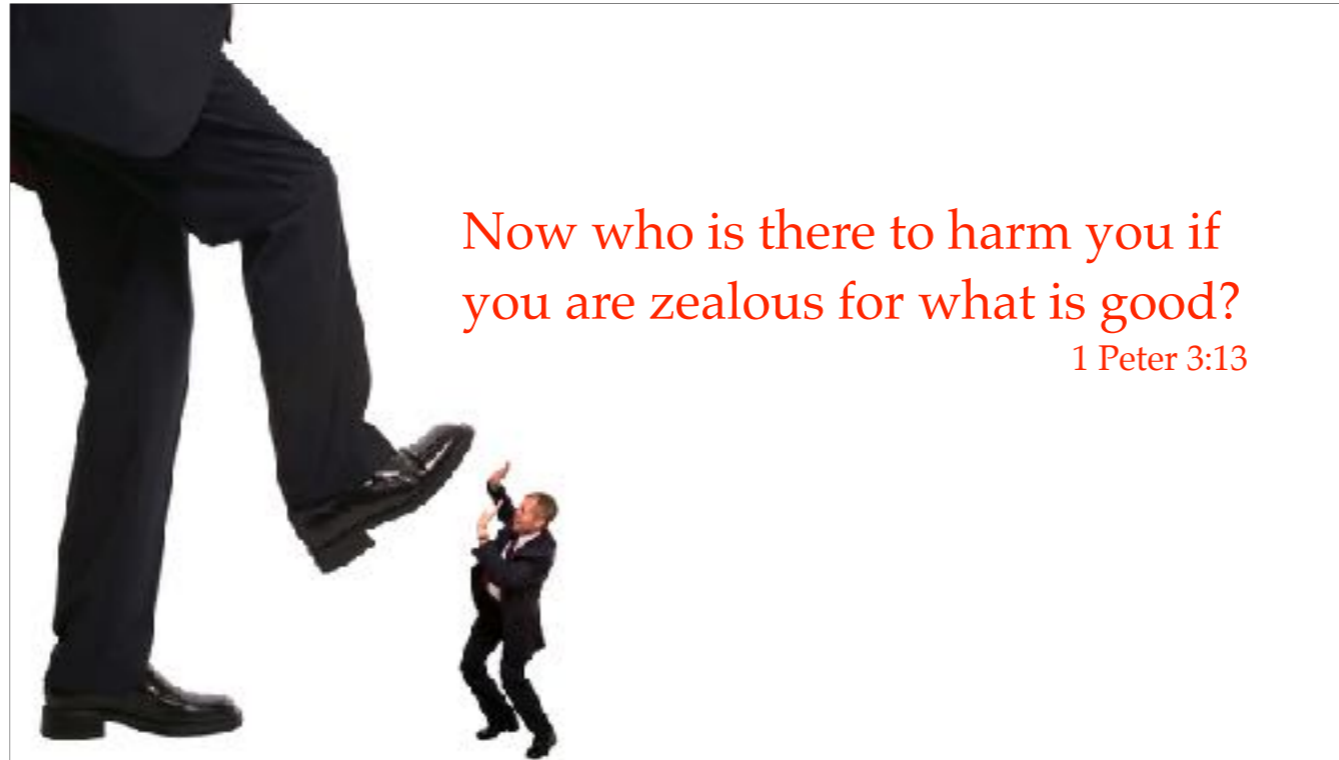




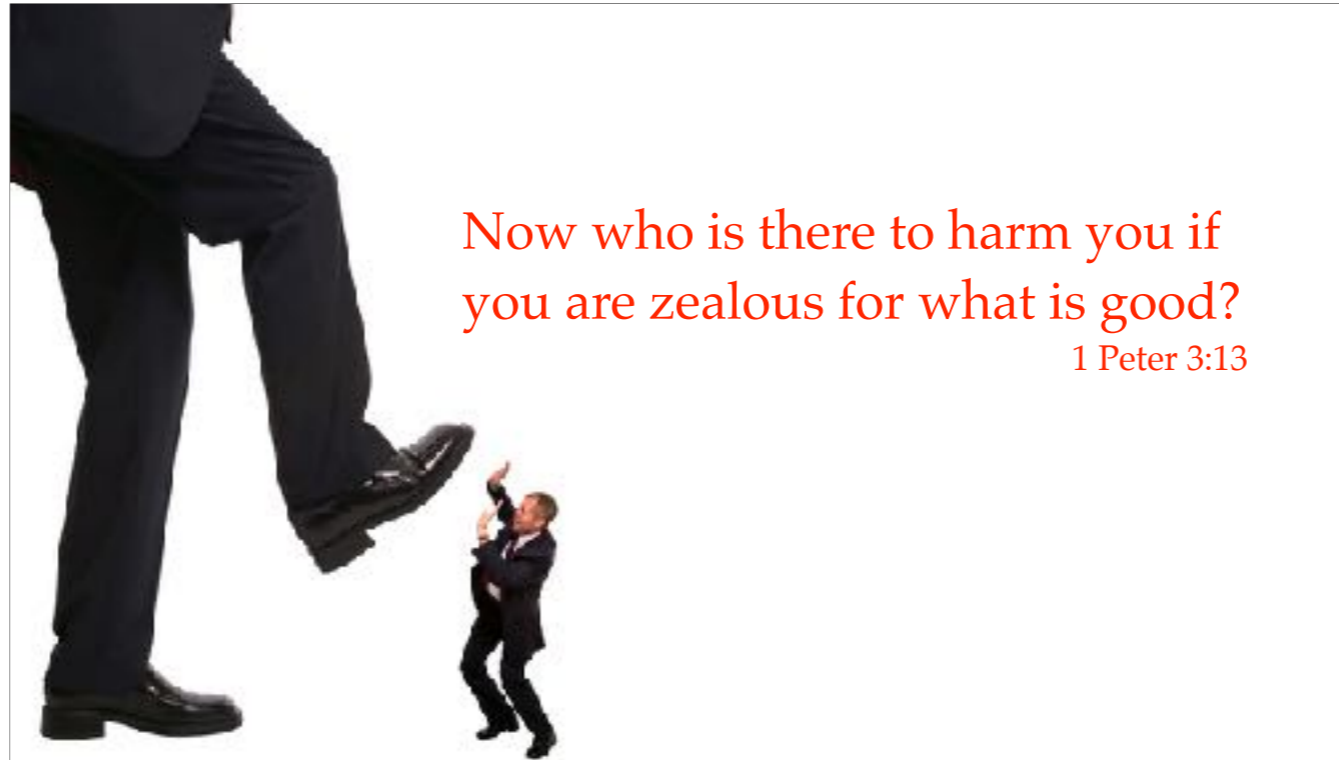
- Letter begins by reminding us to bless God for his mercy, power, grace, salvation and providing us an inheritance.
- Reminds us to set our hope on God's grace
- An as sojourners and exiles we are to do good (5X) and be subject.
- God wants to bless us. (Everyone!) (sorry)
 - But that doesn't mean things will be easy.



Now who is there to harm you if
you are zealous for what is good?

1 Peter 3:13

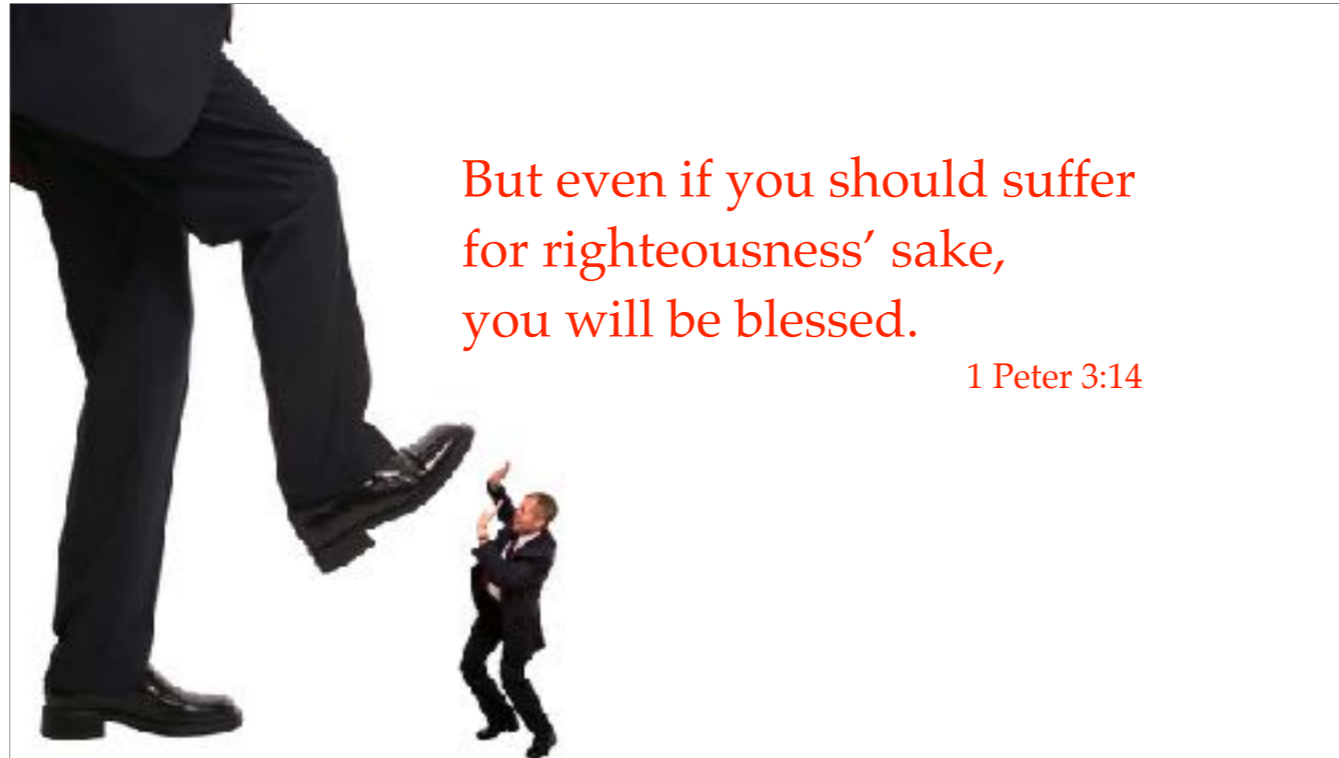
- 1 Peter 3:13 Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?
 - Wait? How can Peter seriously ask this question?
 - The obvious answer is that Jesus ONLY did good ... and he was harmed. (More on that later)
- Jesus warned his disciples that they would be persecuted
 - John 16:2: put out of synagogues, kill
 - Acts 8:1: great persecution against the church
 - Acts 9:1: threats and murder against the disciples



Now who is there to harm you if
you are zealous for what is good?

1 Peter 3:13

- But this isn't about being persecuted for being a disciple per se
 - It's about doing good
 - ("won without a word"? 3:1)
 - Psalms 38:20 Those who render me evil for good accuse me because I follow after good.



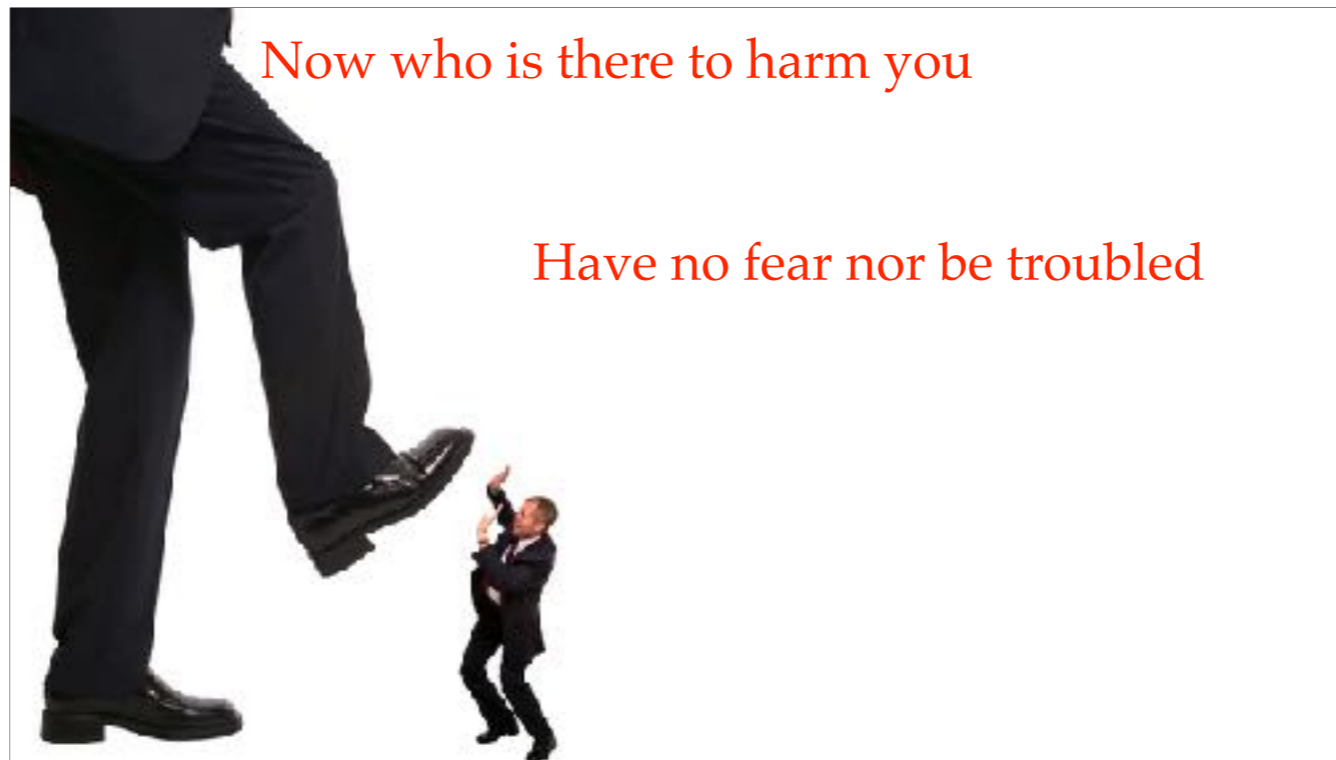
But even if you should suffer
for righteousness' sake,
you will be blessed.

1 Peter 3:14

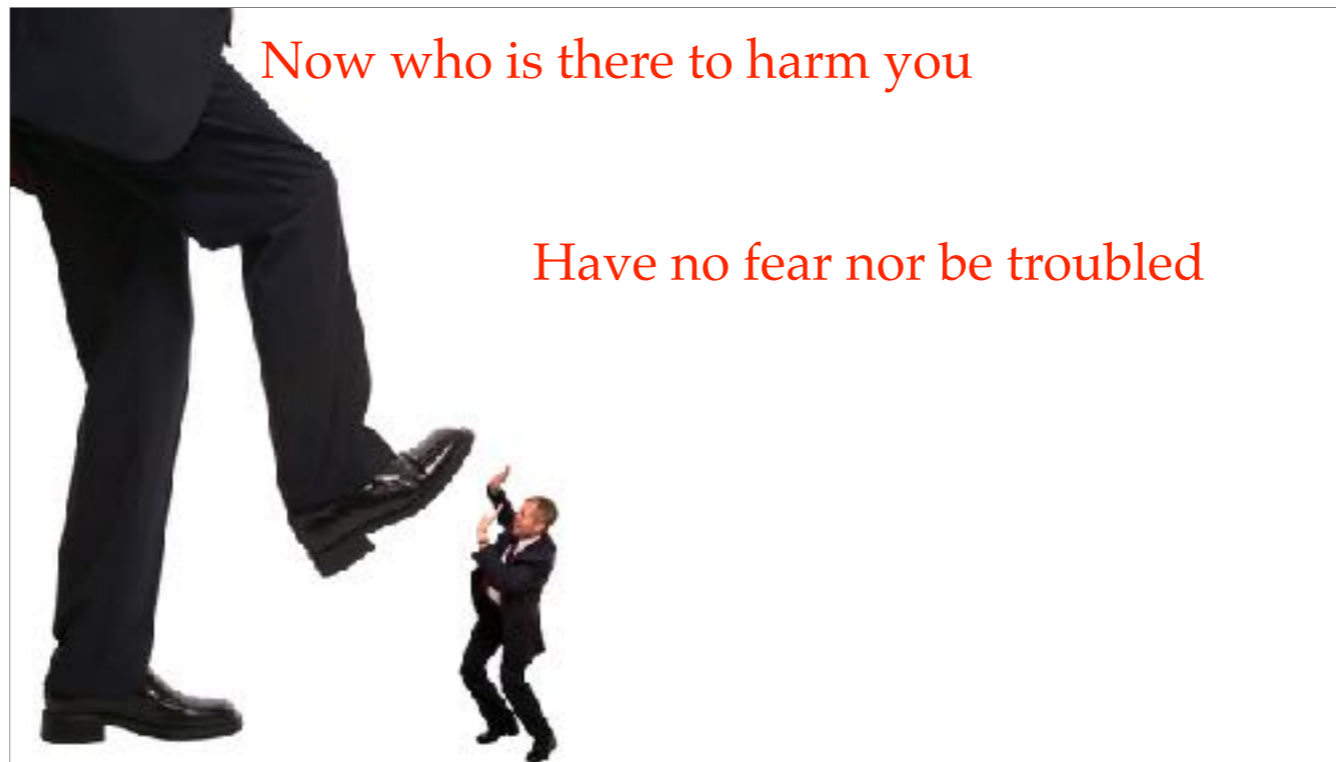
- 1 Peter 3:14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed.
- So, we may be harmed, we may suffer
 - How?
 - 16: slander, revile
 - 18: (Jesus) put to death
- YOU WILL BE BLESSED
 - Although we do good and are righteous,
 - We may suffer, and may be harmed
 - But God has wants to bless us
 - And we need to hear this if we are going to endure unfair suffering.
 - When will we be blessed? How long?



- **Who** is there to harm you?
 - The point is that we will face those who want to harm us
 - Cain killed his brother
 - Jealousy and Envy (Jesus)
 - Greed (Paul)
- Those who do good are often harmed by those who are called their brethren and from those who are unbelievers.
- How do we cope with those who would harm us?



- Have no fear nor be troubled
 - This is difficult because they are harming us and we are suffering.
- Consider what happened with James and Peter at the hands of Herod (Acts 12:1-11)
 - James killed with sword
 - Peter in prison
 - Was he afraid or troubled?
 - released by angel: but that was hard for him to believe.



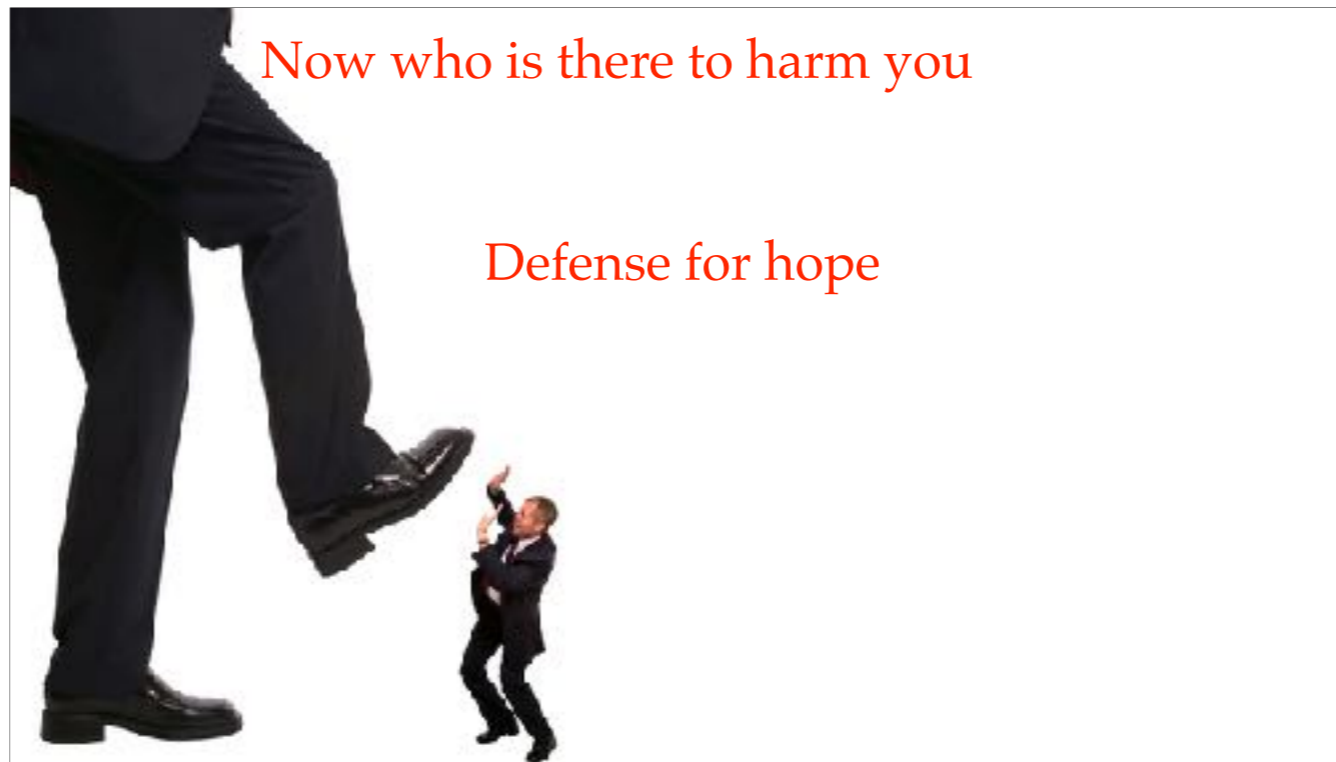
- Perhaps Peter's point is more along the lines of don't let fear of the harm keep you from doing good and accomplishing God's will.
 - Remember that Elisha (mighty prophet) ran away to a cave because Jezebel threatened to kill him?
 - And Jehovah spoke to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"
 - There are times when it feels like running away would be easier.



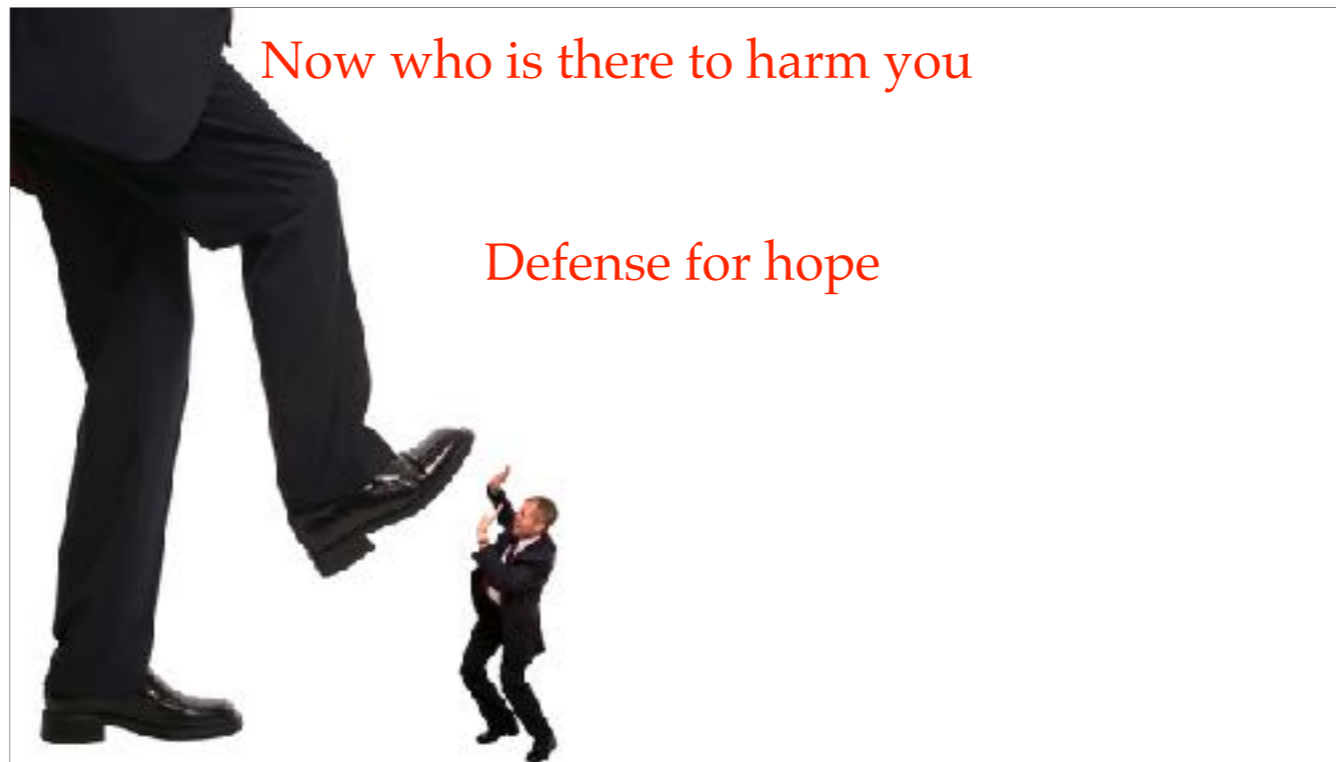
- in your heart honor Christ as Holy
 - Isaiah 8:11-14 (ESV) 11 For the LORD spoke thus to me with his strong hand upon me, and warned me not to walk in the way of this people, saying: 12 “Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. 13 But the LORD of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. 14 And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.



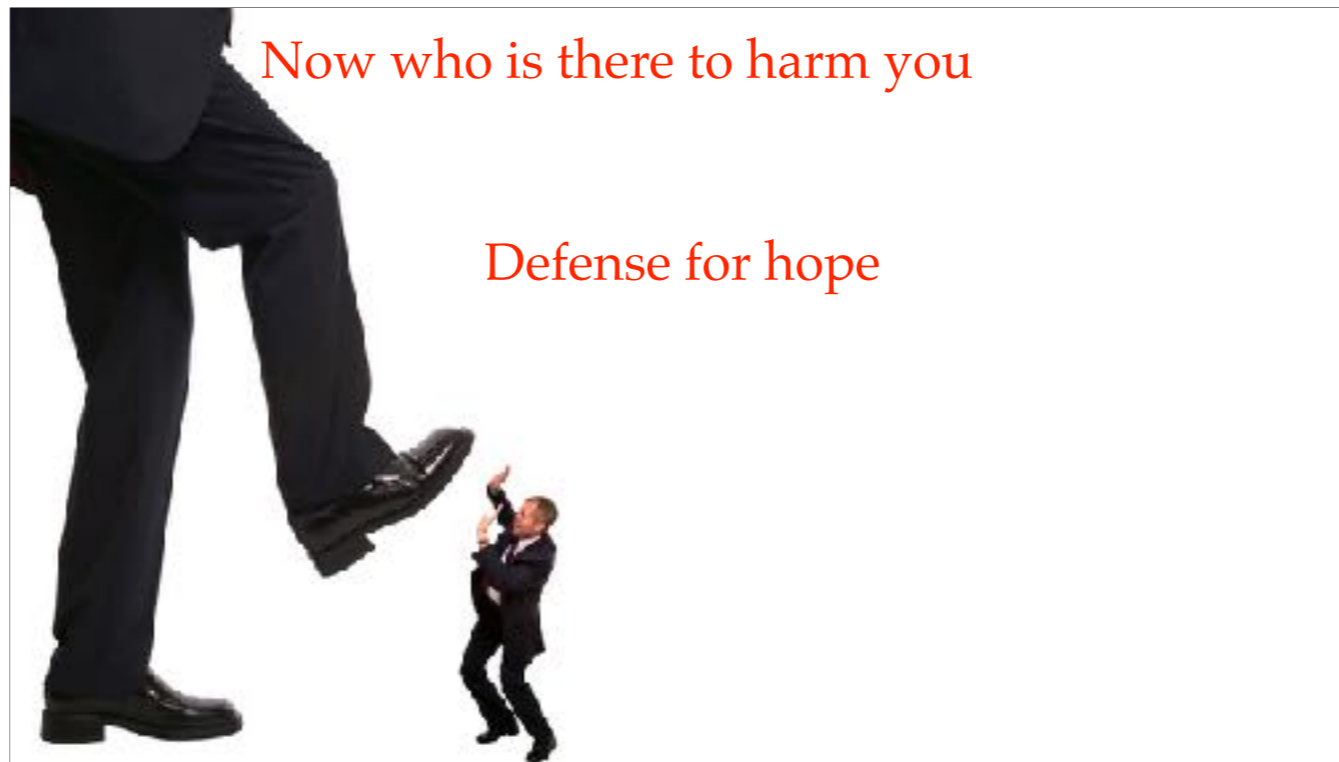
- Peter's point here is that we have our hope and our trust in Jehovah and we keep our focus on him.
 - He's accomplishing his will, so we trust him.
 - "his strong hand upon me"
- The people of Judah had turned away from Jehovah.
 - So Isaiah is encouraged to continue walking in a way that thought well of God and God's plan.
- To me, then, Peter is reminding us to not let fear to overcome our faith.
 - Remember what Jesus has done to save us in the past and his plans for our future inheritance.
 - So we keep doing good.



- 15: always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;
- Generally, we've used this passage to talk about why we should be able to explain why we believe in God: Apologetics.
 - Proving that God exists and that the Bible is his Word
 - This is not incorrect, but Peter's focus is much sharper



- As we face the questions and challenges of the world, they are going to want to know why we keep trusting in Jesus, and why we keep trying to do good, and why we keep being positive, and blessing.
 - Why don't we retaliate? Why don't we threaten?
 - These are normal for the world... why not us?
- Why do we keep on doing good? Why do we hope?
 - This draws our mind back to how Peter started the letter, reminding us that our God is powerful and seeks our salvation. He gives us grace and mercy and hope.



- Peter also wants us to answer for our hope correctly, though, in a way that might cause others to listen ... and I think, maybe join us?
- I'm reminded of Peter cutting off Malchus' ear when Jesus was about to be arrested.
 - Some times our impulse is to lash out even in our defense of Jesus
 - But is that "lashing out" from love?



- Rather
 - gentleness: strength under control - tell the truth, tell it clearly, tell it in a way that will be heard
 - respect: instead of hating those who harm, we respect them, and their value in God's eyes: perhaps we can save them.
 - good conscience: we've done no harm, no wrong, they can't accuse us in a way that is valid.
 - good behavior
- They may slander and revile: but they will be ashamed when they see the truth of who we are and why we have faith in God.

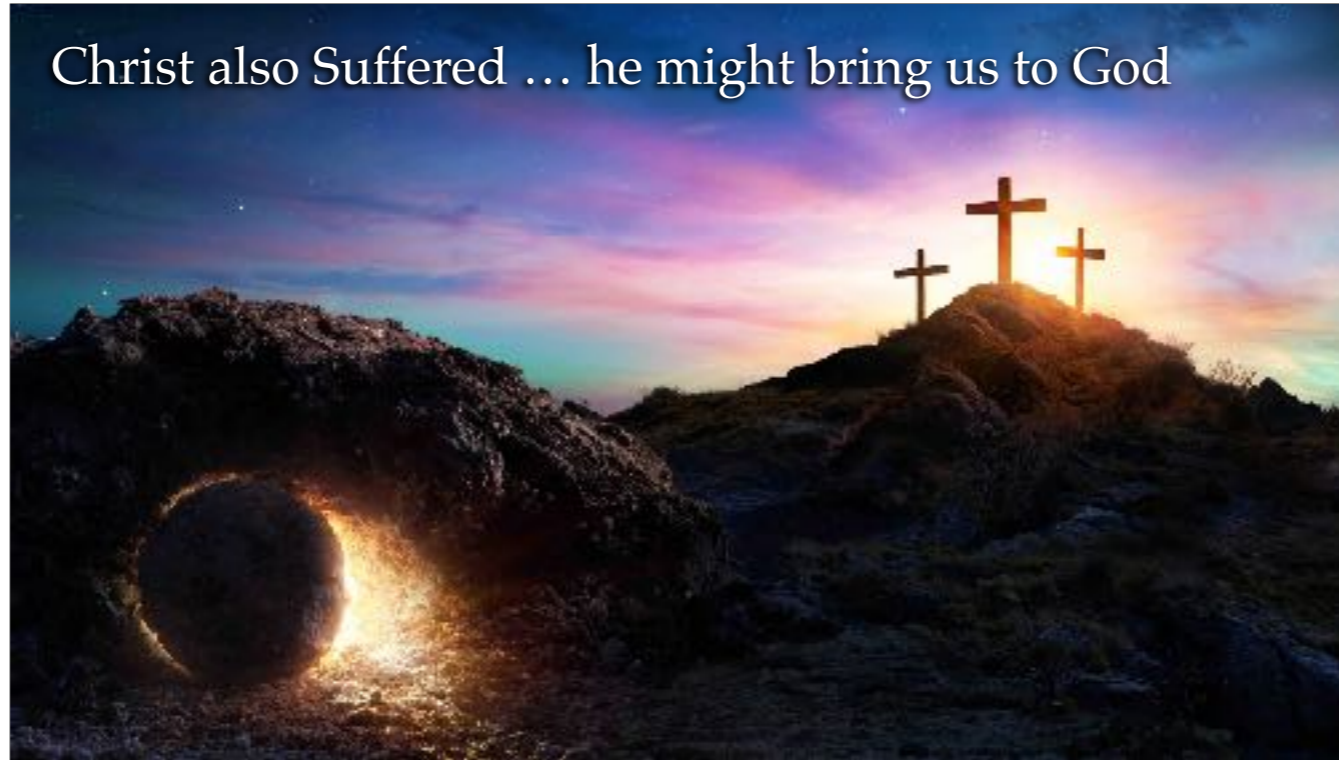


For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

1 Peter 3:17

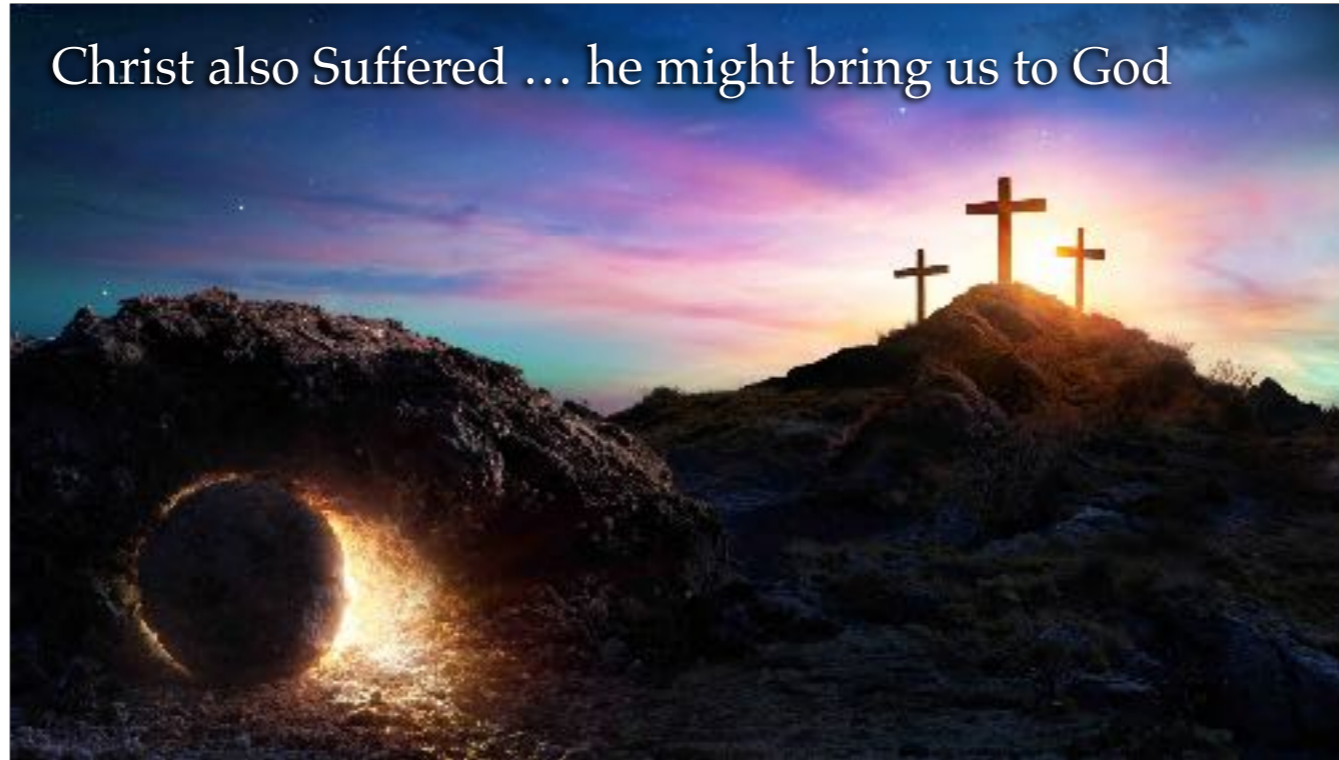
- 1 Peter 3:17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.
- This is one we easily agree with until we are in that moment where we are suffering
 - Hard to understand
 - Hard to explain
 - Hard to cope with
- Why would my suffering be God's will?
 - It was God's will when he flooded the earth.
 - It was for Jesus — to save us
 - It was for Paul — to save souls
 - I may not be able to explain it for each of us personally
- But then Peter points us to our example: Christ

Christ also Suffered ... he might bring us to God



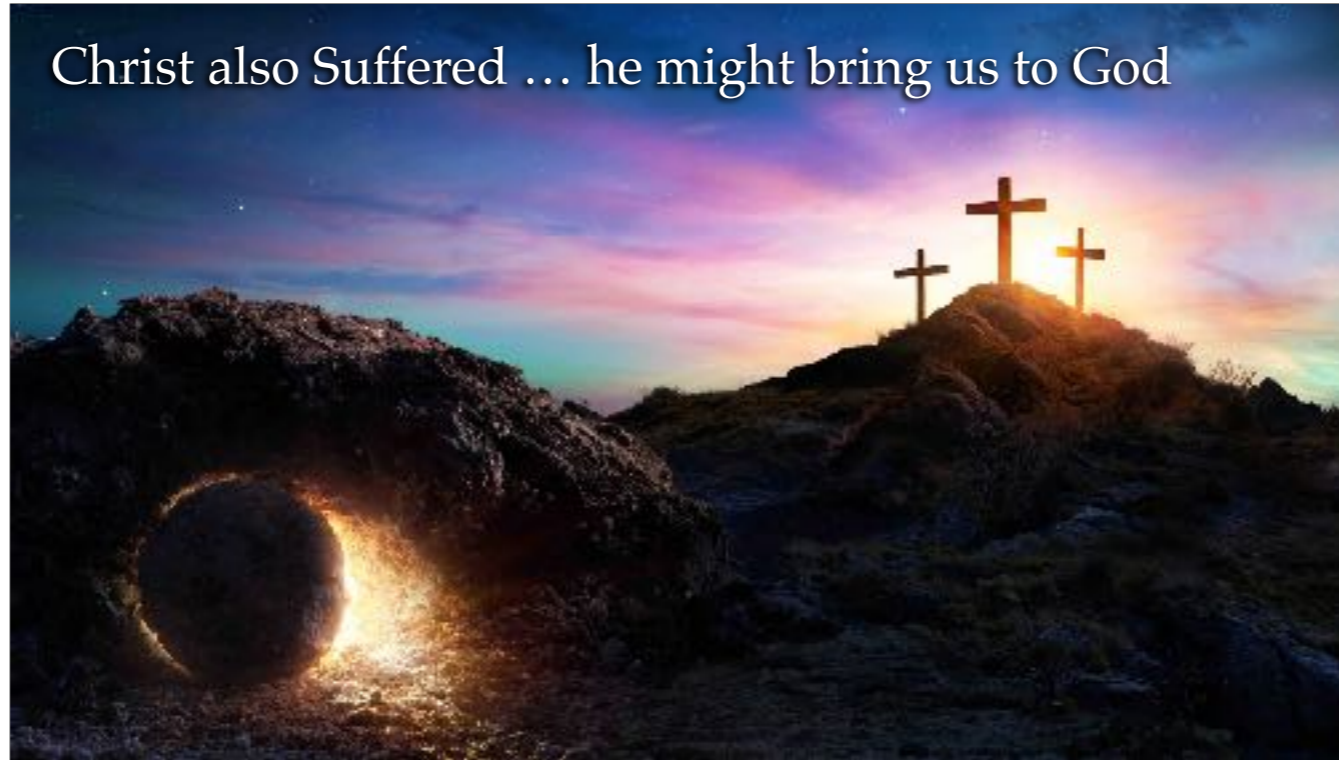
- Peter keeps bringing our attention back to Christ.
 - This is not accidental.
 - Sometimes when we are suffering, we feel very alone
 - Like Elijah
 - We forget to turn our eyes to Jesus
- Christ also suffered!

Christ also Suffered ... he might bring us to God



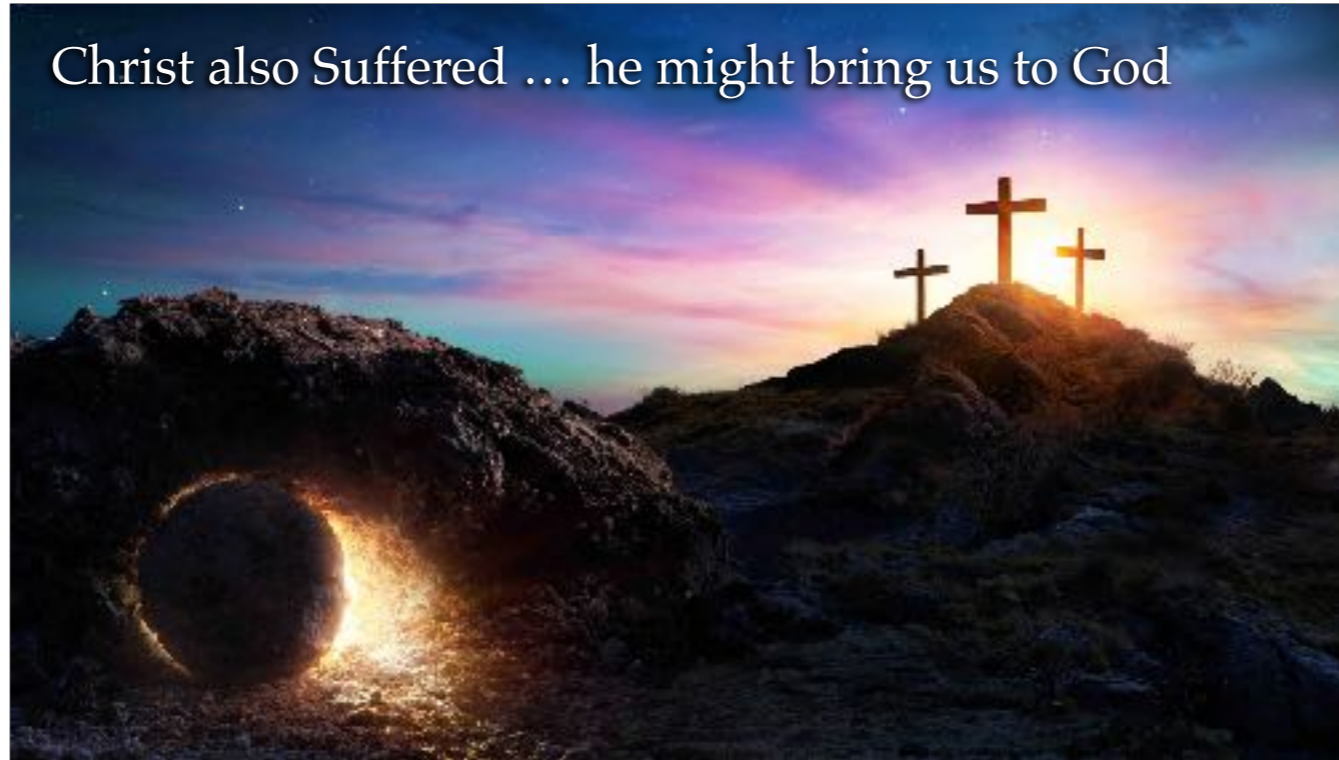
- With Purpose
 - he might bring us to Christ
 - doing good! (17)
- Despite us
 - for sins
 - righteous for the unrighteous
 - He didn't deserve it, it was unfair
 - But he did choose it: purpose

Christ also Suffered ... he might bring us to God



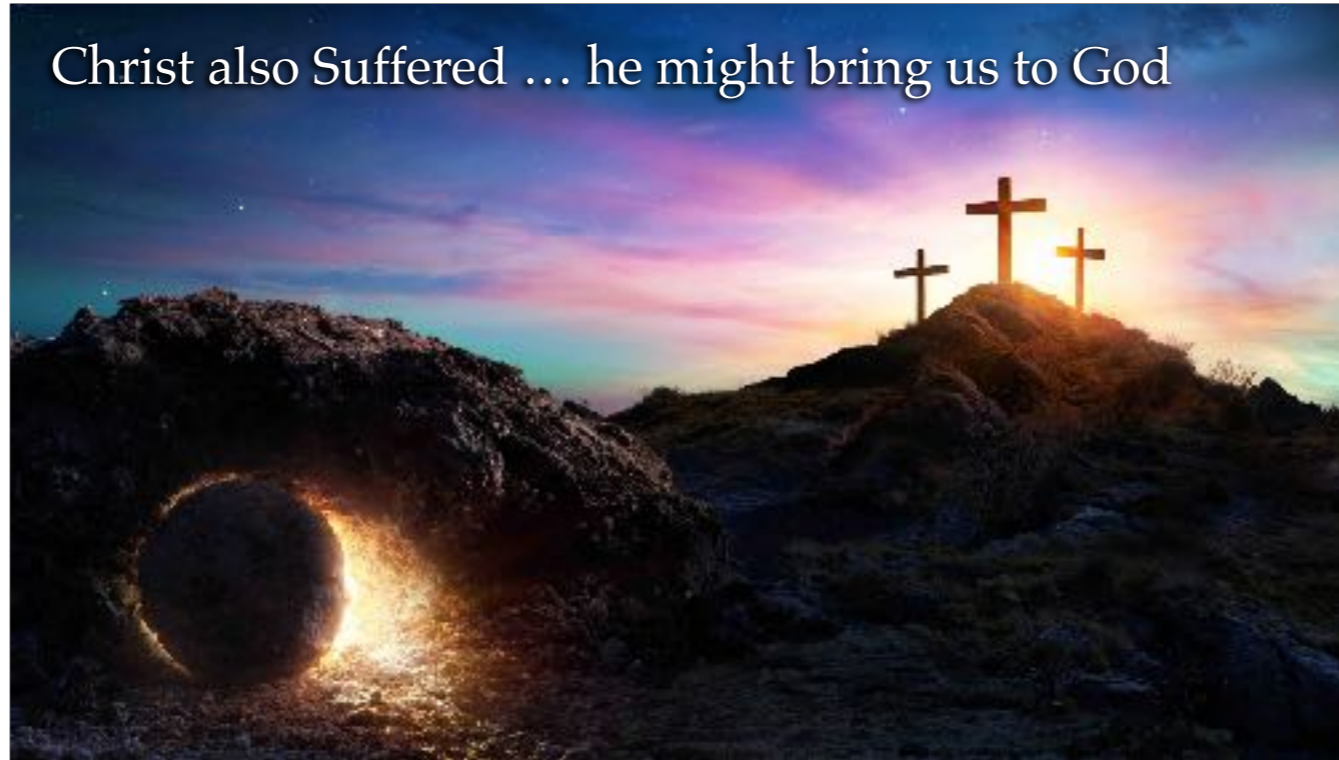
- How did he suffer?
 - He died in the flesh
 - (which was not easy ... tears and prayers)
 - But that's not the end of the story ... there's a reason we have hope!
- He is ALIVE in the Spirit
 - Ecclesiastes 12:7 and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

Christ also Suffered ... he might bring us to God



- Proclaiming to the Spirits in Prison
 - Much has been made about passages like this ... don't want to spend too much time on it today
 - key is we know when this happened: Days of Noah
 - and why: they didn't obey
 - What: PATIENCE of God WAITED
 - 8 persons saved:
 - What did they have to go through?
 - Noah was a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5) — none listened
 - Built ark — 120 years
 - flood, many days, storm (about 6 months)

Christ also Suffered ... he might bring us to God



- Salvation is available to us also
 - Proclaimed by Christ
 - Baptism: a good conscience
- Jesus Now:
 - Dead, alive,
 - Resurrection!
 - Now in Heaven ... at the right hand of God (authority)
 - all others subjected to him
 - This brings us back to previous instruction to “be subject”
 - Ultimately, all will give answer to Christ.



- So Peter reminds us that while we may suffer for doing good, God wants to bless us.
- In Christ we see that hope
 - Dead — but alive and resurrected: he's in authority
- We see it in our salvation
 - Proclaimed, God waited, Baptism: Saves
- 1 Peter 1:3-4 (ESV) According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

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True Grace

#07

Compiled and Presented by:
Dave Stewart
2024 March 3
www.1corinthians1614.com

You Will Be Blessed

1 Peter 3:13-22

Synopsis: As Peter continues to encourage us through our exile, he reminds us that though we may suffer and come to harm, God wants to bless us. So we don't have to fear or be troubled, we keep Jesus in our hearts as Lord, and we tell others of our hope. The example of Christ reminds us that Jesus suffered also, but was blessed.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”