

HBC Pulpit Curriculum

In the Fire, In His Hands

I Peter 5: 10

This material is designed to help give you ideas for discussing the sermon profitably. We trust the lifegroup leaders to choose the questions that will be most helpful to their groups. No one should feel obligated to complete ALL the questions. The reason there is so much material is to offer guidance for those who would like to study the topic more fully during their devotion times during the week.

Introduction

Open in prayer. Read 1 Peter 5: 6 - 11

Pastor Kurt told the story of Fanny Crosby who wrote many famous hymns. She was blind, but she considered herself fortunate to be in this state because it allowed her to focus on writing great hymns about her faith in Christ. Are trials, temptations, and struggles that we face in life a means of God's judgment or grace?

I. Shrink Your Suffering (I Peter 1: 10a).

This letter (I Peter) describes many of the trials that these believers endured. Read I Pet. 1: 1; 2: 11; 3: 17; 4: 12, 14. What were some of these? No one likes to suffer. It seems like we are cursed. Yet, the Bible is full of examples of suffering. Read Phil. 3: 10, James 1: 2, and Col. 1: 24. What do these verses encourage us to do when faced with life's difficulties? Pastor Kurt exhorted us to have the right perspective about afflictions. Read II Cor. 4: 17. What is that perspective? List practical ways we can "shrink our suffering".

II. Remember Your Redeemer (I Peter 5: 10b).

The Greek word order of this sentence differs from the English. The Greek text begins with the phrase, "the God of all grace" in order to emphasize the most important part of the sentence. Based on the Greek word order, Pastor Kurt said that our trials, temptations, and sufferings are "sandwiched between God's grace and God's work! How does this comfort your heart? Do you see the Lord as the God of all grace? If you don't, what do you need to do in order to have the right understanding of the God of all grace?

III. Triumph Through His Toil (I Peter 5: 10c)

The key aspect in overcoming trials is to have the right attitude. Many consider sufferings and hardships to be God's harsh treatment of them. This can lead to bitterness. Yet, Christ said in John 16: 33 that "in this world we will have tribulation". From this we may conclude that trials are a normal part of life for everyone. After all, we all sin and must suffer the consequences of it. God provides His power to help us overcome. From this passage, what are the four things He promises every believer? Describe each one. What is our responsibility?

Continue praying for a Worship Pastor and for additional staff. Pray for Pastor Mark and his family, as they begin their life here in Hickory!