

WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

June 14, 2020

Worship, as God intended, is a supernatural event. As we enter into this service of worship, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy. Prepare yourself therefore for this most holy convocation!

Prelude

Worship Theme

God is our Protector

Psalm 146:8-10: "The Lord opens *the eyes of* the blind; the Lord raises up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous; the Lord protects the strangers; He supports the fatherless and the widow; but He thwarts the way of the wicked. The Lord will reign forever, Thy God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the Lord!"

God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross Ps. 47:1, 6-7

+We Adore Him

Hymn #88, "With Grateful Heart"

From Psalm 138

We Confess Our Sin

Merciful Lord, we confess that with us there is an abundance of sin, but in You there is the fulness of righteousness and abundance of mercy. We are spiritually poor, but You are rich and in Jesus Christ came to be merciful to the poor. Strengthen our faith and our trust in You. We are empty vessels that need to be filled; fill us. We are lacking in thankfulness. Sanctify us to give thanks to You always and for all things. We are cold in love; warm us, and make our hearts fervent for You, that our love may go out to one another and to our neighbors. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #81, "O Love Of God"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication Eph. 6:10, 18

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #702, "Peace, Perfect Peace"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship 1 Pet. 1:23-25

We Read His Word

Sermon

Hymn #98, "Now Thank We All Our God"

God Blesses us in the Benediction

Welcome and Announcements

Postlude

(Containers have been placed at the front for communion cups and small trash)

+You are invited to raise your hands during the prayer of adoration.

Godly Living in a Hostile World: Living in Pursuit of Holiness, Pt. 2

1 Peter 4:1-6

Study Notes for June 14, 2020

I. Introduction

Suffering will be Part of our Lives as Christians

There are many passages in the bible which indicate that suffering and difficulty are going to be part of our lives as servants of God (cf. Jn. 16:33b; Ps. 34:19a; 1 Pet. 4:12).

In fact, not only is trial and difficult not avoidable, but God Himself has destined us for it (cf. Phil. 1:29).

In light of this, the call throughout Scripture is that we “improve upon our suffering” (cf. Jam. 1:4; Jn. 14:1; Ps. 119:71)!

Review of 1 Peter 4:1-3

1. The Call, v. 1a.
2. The Catalyst, vv. 1b-3.
 - a. Being Mindful of the Benefit of Suffering, vv. 1b-2.
 - b. Being Mindful of the Personal Cost of Sin, v. 3.
3. The Cause of the Conviction, 1 Pet. 1:8-9...

Robert Murray M'Cheyne put it this way, “When you taste honey, it makes everything else tasteless. Likewise, when your soul feeds on Jesus, it takes away the sweetness of all earthly things. Pride, pleasure, fleshly lusts, all lose their sweetness!” (Speaking of Heb. 12:2)

II. Godly Living in a Hostile World: Living in Pursuit of Holiness, 1 Peter. 4:1-6.

C. The Consequence of Holy Living in a Fallen World, v. 4.

Surprise: ξενίζω (*xenizō*); The word speaks of astonishment and shock with the connotation of taking offense or being resentful...

It always amazes me the things which “shock” and so offend non-believers (cf. Jer. 3:3b)...

Because of their sinfulness, sin does not shock them! Ironically, what does shock them is any desire on our part to live a life that honors and pleases the Lord!

Malice: βλασφημέω (*blasphēmeō*); making light of anything associated with God...

Spurgeon wrote of this, “What a strange world this world is! It speaks evil of men because they will not do evil. Yet it has ever been so; the men ‘of whom the world was not worthy’ (Heb 11:38) have been the very people of whom worldly people have said, ‘Away with such fellows from the earth! For it is not fit that they should live’ (Acts 22:22).” (*Spurgeon Commentary: 1 Peter 4:4*)

To strive for holiness is to strive for that which is sacred! As that is the case, the pursuit of holiness is on the same plane in Scripture as...

There is no such thing as a minor sin! While some sins are “more heinous in the eyes of God than others,” nevertheless all sin is heinous to God! This is why “malice” toward God’s people seeking to be holy is a major sin!

***Where We Live**

1. From this what ought we to conclude about pursuing holiness in this age?

You _____! (2 Tim. 3:12)

MacArthur wrote, "Ancient sources, both Christian and non-Christian, provide ample evidence that it was Christians' reluctance to participate in many conventionally accepted amusements and ungodly civic ceremonies, and their refusal to engage in idolatrous, immoral functions that caused unbelievers to hate and revile them. That led to unjust persecution and suffering for righteousness' sake." (*1 Peter*, MNTC, pp. 229-230)

2. In light of this, our initial response might be to compromise a bit, "It is just a little sin. I don't want people to think I'm weird." What is Peter's response to this?

D. The Consolation, vv. 5-6.

1. The Persecutor Someday will be Judged, v. 5.

The picture here is of a judge, fully robed and sitting behind the bench ready to issue forth judgment. That is how close the non-Christian is to hell!

The Doctrine of the Immanency of Christ

Accordingly, Peter pictures the Lord in our text, fully robed and seated behind the bench ready to issue forth judgment as it pertains to each individual sinner!

As that is the case, we can be sure that the smallest attack on the part of the worldling against us has not and will not escape God's notice (cf. Mt. 12:36; Mt. 5:28)...

***Where We Live:** It is natural to respond to this truth with sobriety and then encouragement. How so?

2. The Persecuted Most Certainly Will Triumph, v. 6.

Who is Peter here talking about? _____!

Who are these people?

What is their victory? They are in Christ's presence, loving Him, serving Him, glorifying Him, enjoying Him (cf. Lk. 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8b)...

MacArthur wrote of this, "Peter's point is that believers, even under unjust treatment- including death- should be willing and unafraid to suffer, knowing that all death can do is triumphantly bring their eternal spirits into everlasting life in heaven." (*1 Peter*, MNTC, p. 231)

***Where We Live**

1. In light of this, what is the encouragement Peter gives to any and all who are persecuted for righteousness sake!

Death is not a setback, but a _____!

Peter Davids wrote, "The point of the passage, then, is that the judgment is also the time of the vindication of Christians. They, like Christ, may have been judged as guilty by human beings according to their standards, either in that they died like other human beings, or through their being put to death... But, also like Christ, God will have the final say, and his verdict in the final judgment will be life." (*The First Epistle of Peter*, NINCT, p. 155)

2. The message is quite simple yet encouraging: They _____ who _____!!

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