

Session One (1 Peter 1:1-25):

Intro to the “Epistle on Suffering”:

A Word on Peter:

1. Who wrote 1 Peter?
 - a.
2. What are some basic things we know about Peter? Consider:
 - a. Peter’s calling (cf. Mt. 4:18ff)
 - i.
 - b. Peter in Caesarea Philippi (cf. Mark 8:27-38)
 - i.
 - c. Peter at the transfiguration (cf. Mt. 17:1-9)
 - i.
 - d. Peter in Gethsemane (cf. Mt 26:36-49)
 - i.
 - e. Peter hastens to the tomb (cf. John 20:1-10)
 - i.
 - f. Jesus appears to Peter (cf. John 21:1-19)
 - i.
 - g. Peter preaches on Pentecost (cf. Acts 2:1ff)
 - i.
 - h. Peter heals a beggar (cf. Acts 3:1ff)
 - i.
3. To whom did the author write?
 - a.
4. For what purpose was 1 Peter written?
 - a.
5. What does the author do in 1 Peter 1?
 - a.

Greetings: (1:1-2):

1. What does it mean that Peter is “an apostle of Jesus Christ?”
 - a. An advocate
 - b. As Christ himself
2. How did Peter become an apostle?
 - a.
3. For what purpose has God foreknown these elect exiles?
 - a. Sanctification:
 - i.
 - b. Obedience:
 - i.

4. A quote on “sprinkling with his blood:”
 - a. “There must be a sprinkling which converts us and makes us spiritually minded. But this sprinkling is to preach that Christ has shed his blood, has ascended to his Father, and intercedes, saying, ‘Beloved Father; behold my blood which I have shed for these sinners.’ If you believe this, you are sprinkled” (Luther, 22).
 - i. Outward sprinkling
 - 1.
 - ii. Inward sprinkling
 - 1.

Equality as Those Born Again (1:3-12):

1. What does it mean that we are born again to a living hope?
 - a. Not doing
 - i.
 - b. But being
 - i.
2. How do we now have an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading? By what means does this new birth take place?
 - a. Once children of Adam
 - i.
 - b. Now Children of God the Father
 - i.
3. A quote on our equality with other Christians:
 - a. “Since we are all begotten again, the children and heirs of god, we are equal in honor and dignity with Paul, Peter, our blessed Virgin, and all the saints. For we have the treasure and all good things from God just as richly as they for it was just as necessary for them to be begotten again as for us. Therefore, they have nothing more than all other Christians” (Luther, 27).
4. What does it mean that “by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation...”?
 - a.
5. Consider this quote:
 - a. “Are you a Christian, and do you look for this inheritance or this salvation? Then you must cleave to this alone, despise all that is upon earth, and confess that all worldly reason, wisdom and righteousness are nothing. This the world will not be able to bear. Therefore, you are to expect that men shall condemn you and persecute you. Thus Peter joins faith, hope, and the holy cross together, for one follows upon the other” (Luther, 42).

Peter's First Counsel on Suffering (1:3-9):

1. What does Peter tell us regarding suffering? See 1:6-9.
 - a.
 - b.
2. Why do trials and temptations come? Consider 1:7.
 - a. Consider this quote: "God lays his hand upon us therefore, to try our faith and reveal it to the world that others may be induced to believe, and we also be praised and honored" (Luther, 47).
 - b. Also consider: "Let faith remain pure as the word is pure so that we depend on the word alone and trust to nothing else" (Luther, 47).
3. What is the difference between how the devil uses suffering and how God uses it?
 - a. Devil:
 - b. God:
4. Consider this quote:
 - a. "Gold and silver are not entirely pure; other metals [dross] are always mixed in... When the metal liquifies, the dross floats to the top. If the metal is pure, you see it when it's hot enough: there is no dross. Peter says that our suffering is the fire that heats up our faith" (A Martyr's Faith in a Faithless Word, 118).
- 5.

Christ's Suffering Connected with Ours (1 Peter 1:10-12):

1. The sufferings of Christ. How do they involve Christ and us?
 - a. Christ
 - i.
 - b. Us
 - i. See Acts. 9:4
 - c. Consider this: "For God makes us poor and then rich, bruises and slays, and then heals and restores to life. The devil does just the opposite" (Luther, 57).
 - i.

The Result of God's Use of Suffering in our Lives (1 Peter 1:13-25):

1. How does God's use of suffering effect out faith? See 1:8-9.
 - a.
2. Because of this faith, how does it change our lives today? See 1:13-16.
 - a.
3. How does God make us holy? See 1:17-21 and recall Peter's words in Acts 3:6.
 - a.
 - i. Not with
 - ii. But with

Take Home:

1. I urge you to consider that God wields suffering for his purpose of strengthening our faith.
2. Rather than wondering who is causing the suffering in your life, I urge you to cling to God's Word alone and to see how your suffering helps you to see the sufficiency of God's Word.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we praise you for being a God who uses suffering to purify our faith. We are as uncomfortable with suffering as Peter was, and yet, through suffering you purified Peter's faith, enabling him to boldly proclaim your crucified and risen son. We ask that you would wield suffering to purify our faith in Jesus that we might also be bold in telling others what you have done for us in Jesus' death and resurrection. Thank you for your gifts. Help us to share them with our neighbors. In Jesus' name, amen.