

# Chico Alliance Church

November 1, 2015

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## ***“The Once for ALL Sacrifice”***

### **Review**

Live godly in and ungodly world or live differently because you are different.

**I. Realize your new heritage as specially chosen children of God 1:3-12**

**II. Live out your heritage as God’s specially chosen children 1:13-5:11**

**G. Practice godly behavior under persecution for doing right 3:13-22**

In this letter, Peter provides anchors of truth and actions of godliness intended to make a difference as we live in a broken godless world. Anchors deal with the renewing of our thinking so we gain and maintain an eternal perspective. Actions, of course, are specific actions we take based on the truth we embrace. Following Peter’s admonition to bless even those who treat you badly, he continued to focus on the benefits of such godly behavior in the face of suffering. Peter’s admonition to do the right thing in the face of wrong treatment began with a general observation.

Generally, doing good returns good.

*Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? 1 Peter 3:13 (ESV)*

People generally still appreciate good deeds and heroic actions. However, in our current culture things appear to be changing. Peter reminded them that negative responses to our good behavior is possible and perhaps even probable.

*even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed.*

One of the perception anchors to keep us thinking properly is to realize that hurtful things actually can happen to good people. There will be times when we do suffer for doing the right thing.

A second anchor is to realize that when we do suffer, blessing is attached. Peter presented three specific actions in the face of persecution; two negative, one positive.

### **1. Do not fear their fear**

*DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, 1 Peter 3:14 (NASB)*

### **2. Don’t be troubled**

This term indicates something becoming agitated that was once settled. To be upset, troubled, agitated, disturbed. Peter encouraged a positive response that would reinforce the ability to not fear or be agitated in the face of persecution.

### **3. Sanctify Jesus as Lord in your heart**

Peter moved to a contrasting action triggered by the term “but”. As opposed to being afraid and troubled, take a positive action.

*But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts.*

We are to establish Jesus as the focus of our life. He is our Lord. He is the one we live to serve and obey. When we allow Him to be the boss of our life, we can deal with suffering when it comes. In fact, Peter indicates here that suffering just may be God’s will for us. Peter indicates that when we have established Jesus as Lord of our life, we are ready to have a conversation with anyone who asks a reason why we can have such hope in such a hopeless world. What is the reason for your hope, peace, and confidence? It is Jesus!

Peter presupposes that we project such hope by the way we talk and walk.

Peter qualified how we should communicate this living hope. Speak with grace.

*yet do it with gentleness and respect, 1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)*

We are to keep a good conscience. We are to live without regret.

*having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. 1 Peter 3:16 (ESV)*

Someday those who persecute us will praise us. For now they behave with smugness.

Someday they will bow in shame. The Christian's proper behavior under persecution and trial may win them, it may shame them and later will be cause for their judgment.

Another anchor to etch into our thinking is...

*It is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. 1 Peter 3:17 (ESV)*

It is better, stronger, nobler to suffer for doing good than doing evil. God sometimes in His wisdom may allow us to suffer for doing good. There are times when suffering is God's plan. I often try to face difficulties with this. I embrace all of God's purpose for this difficulty but REFUSE any and all purpose of Satan. If it is God's will I embrace it. If it is Satan's attempt to derail me, I refuse it.

*Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.*

*1 Peter 4:19 (ESV)*

Anchors for times of suffering.

Realize suffering is not only possible but probable.

Realize that suffering for doing right brings blessing and reward.

Realize it is better (beneficial) to suffer for doing good than wrong.

Realize that suffering for doing right just may be God's plan.

Actions in the face of suffering

Don't be fearful of their intimidation.

Don't be troubled, shaken.

BUT

Make sure that Jesus has been established as Lord in the core of your being.

When He is enthroned as Lord of your life, you will always be ready to articulate a reason for the hope you have within you to any who ask. Just do it with gentleness and reverence.

Peter appealed again to the example of Jesus. That is the focus of this message.

*For Christ also died (suffered) for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit... 1 Peter 3:18 (NASB)*

The "For" connects this verse to the previous discussion of bearing up under undeserved suffering for doing what is right in God's eyes. Every usually does what is right in their own eyes. The key here, is to make sure you are suffering for what is right in GOD'S eyes.

## **The action of Jesus**

There are four points to ponder here.

1. He suffered.
2. He suffered for our sins.
3. He suffered for sins once for all
4. He suffered as a righteous man for unrighteous men.

## HE SUFFERED

Depending on which manuscript you consult the word used here is either the word for death or die or the world for suffering. Either one communicates the severity of the action he voluntarily took on our behalf.

The use of the word “suffering” is the word from which we apply to the last week of Jesus’ ministry – we call it “passion” week from the Greek word “pascho”. It means to tangibly experience hurt, pain, agony, and trauma.

This suffering included and culminated in His death. The idea of suffering looks at all of the excruciating events leading up to the moment He died. It includes the excruciating unthinkable physical torture, the emotional trauma, the mental anguish, the relational devastation, the monumental spiritual weight. Why should we voluntarily respond in a godly way to persecution or suffering? Because Jesus did it for us!

## HE SUFFERED FOR OUR SINS

It is one thing to bear up under trial for our benefit. Jesus did it for our benefit. He took the punishment for OUR sin. He bore the consequences of our wrong. We blew it – He bore it.

*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

*2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB)*

He (God) made Him (Jesus who had no sin) to be sin for us who sinned. He became what we were (sin) that we might become what He is (righteous). Isaiah clearly prophesied this horrid unjust exchange. (Isa 53)

OUR sickness HE bore.

OUR sorrow HE carried.

It was assumed that God was punishing Him for something He did.

For OUR transgression HE was pierced through.

For OUR iniquities HE was crushed.

For OUR pride HE was chastened.

For OUR healing HE was whipped.

WE turned away from God to our own way.

WE strayed like sheep away from the fold of God.

OUR iniquity fell on HIM.

Since all sinned, He suffered on account of all our sin. There are numerous passages that clearly indicate that Jesus did not just come as an example to follow but as a substitute on our behalf. When Jesus died, he cried out, “it is finished”. The word actually means “paid in full”.

*But the LORD was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, and the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.*

*Isaiah As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; by His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities. Isaiah 53:10-11 (NASB)*

Why did he do it?

*God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8*

He suffered. He suffered for our sins.

## He suffered for sins once for all

The writer of Hebrews wrote to a group of Christian Jews struggling under the persecution of the Jewish establishment to abandon Christianity and returned to Judaism. The Jews had dealt with sin for centuries by the daily sacrifice of animals. It was clear that God from beginning never intended such sacrifices to cover sin.

*The Holy Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle is still standing, which is a symbol for the present time. Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience, since they relate only to food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until a time of reformation. But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Hebrews 9:8-14 (NASB)*

*Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, waiting from that time onward UNTIL HIS ENEMIES BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET. For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying, "THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THEM AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEART, AND ON THEIR MIND I WILL WRITE THEM," He then says, "AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE." Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin. Hebrews 10:11-18 (NASB)*

It really is finished! The eternal Christ offered himself once for all. The final point concerning Jesus' action reinforces the disparity between Jesus and us.

He suffered. He suffered for our sins. He suffered for sins once for all.

### **He suffered as a righteous man for unrighteous men.**

Just for the just. The only righteous man that ever lived died for all the unrighteous people that will ever live. *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

*2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB)*

God made Jesus the righteous to be sin on behalf of the unrighteous, that the unrighteous might become the very righteousness if God in Him.

### **The purpose of Jesus' action**

Peter introduces the purpose of Jesus' action with a "so that".

so that *He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;*

His motivation was love his purpose was reconciliation. Far too many gospel presentations today focus on the wrong thing. Focuses on what God will do for me. He is seen as a celestial Santa Claus ready to dispense desired toys. It becomes all about what I get from God. Salvation is seen as a life insurance policy or fire insurance policy. I sign the papers and put them in the safe until I need them. I really don't care about the company or the agent who sold them to me. All I care about is the fact that I am covered.

Yes God has given us all things to enjoy but not without him. The core of the gospel is all about the incredible privilege of relationship with the eternal God after we have so miserably offended him by our sin and

rebellion. Peter said he did this in order to bring us to God the father. He was brutally put to death and gloriously resurrected to bring us to God.

*Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, he has become new. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

*2 Corinthians 5:17-20*

Many people with whom we share the gospel have no desire for relationship with God. They want his stuff but they don't want him. They want him to fix their miserable life but not to share in his life. Popular track begins with, "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life." Yes God loves us, yes he has a wonderful plan, but that's not the point. Jesus suffered to eradicate the impregnable barrier or gulf between us and God caused by our sin. He removed it by the sacrifice of himself so that we could enjoy intimate relationship with the Holy God of the universe. We who embrace the Lord Jesus Christ should never take that for granted.

The Gospel of John makes this fact abundantly clear.

*"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." John 3:36 (NASB)*

*Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and longsuffering, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God... Romans 2:4-6 (NASB)*

Since Jesus voluntarily suffered in order to bring us to God, is not reasonable that we also should voluntarily suffer for doing right by chance others might be brought to God by observing our godly response and life?

How are you reacting to persecution were suffering? We studied Jesus is response not too long ago.

*For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls. 1 Peter 2:21-25 (NASB)*

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13 (ESV)*

As you contemplate this message, focus first on what Jesus did for you. It should fill us with gratitude, awe and wonder that the sinless Christ would give himself for the sinful creature. He did it so that we could enjoy restored relationship with the trinity.

Second, think about what I would be willing to suffer to enable someone to enjoy the same reconciliation with God.