

ENDURE

A STUDY IN FIRST PETER



1 Peter 1:20

Based on last week's Practice

1. What applications from last week's study were you able to put into practice?
2. What stories from this past week would you like to encourage the group with?
3. What did you find most challenging from last week's study?

Overview

Peter is writing to Christians suffering because they were following Jesus. Since we are orienting our lives around the way of Jesus, the teaching of Jesus, we will look different and be treated differently. We will be marginalized, persecuted, or worse. How then can we face all these things in such a way that these things work to make us more like Jesus: more hopeful, more loving, rather than broken and bitter. It is because God has given us a new nature. A nature where we are no longer slaves to the old way of sin, but are now children of holiness, no longer called children of disobedience but of obedience.

But what did it cost God to give us this new nature? It wasn't free. God paid for it. It cost God the blood of Jesus. Jesus, God's only Son, was beaten, crucified, and died to pay the price for us. How precious is the price that was paid!

We should understand three things about the price God paid. First it was planned. God chose before the foundation of the world, that he would grieve, that he would suffer pain for us, and He would die. Second, it was payment! The plan for Jesus to be slain, that He and His Father made before the foundation of the world, was a precious, costly payment. But for who? The suffering and the death of Jesus, the cross of Jesus, who is it for? It was for you and me! How can we know God loves us? Because he always planned to give himself for us in payment for our sins, for our rebellion. When was the last time that you were captured by the fact that Jesus died for you?

Scripture

1 Peter 1:20

Discussion

1. What does the fact that God planned all this tell us about God?
2. If God planned the payment for our sin before he even created us, what must he have known?
3. If you are a parent, describe a time that your child rebelled and caused you pain?
4. How do you think God feels when we sin?
5. We make plans all the time, but we often don't accomplish them. How do you see God accomplishing His plan in scripture and in your life?
6. In John 19:30, Jesus says, "It is finished". What was finished? How was this part of God's plan?
7. For whom did Jesus make payment? How and why?
8. When was the last time that you were captured by the fact that Jesus died for you? What were the circumstances?
9. If Jesus died for your sins, what does it say about him? What does it say about us?
10. What does God's plan and payment for you mean in your life?

Application

This is Holy Week, the week we are to contemplate the cross of Jesus.

This week:

- Contemplate and repent of your sins. Think about your stubbornness, your rebellion. Identify specific sins you are refusing to give up. Acknowledge how numb you are to sin, how don't even think about it any more.
- Contemplate on the suffering and the death of Jesus. The cross of Jesus. That it is all for you.
- Contemplate how God loves you, His plan for you, how He sacrificed for you, that He personally gave himself up to pay the price for you.
- Spend time thanking God for His plan, His payment, His love for you.
- Then accept and experience the new nature that He has given you!