**Why Must We Suffer? #8**

July 5, 2020 – 1 Peter 3:18-4:6

**“Armed by the Suffering of Christ”**

Christ suffered to bring sinners to God (3:18-22)

 Christ suffered to put an end to sin (4:1-3)

Christ suffered to set the final judgment (4:4-6)

**“Armed by the Suffering of Christ”**

**1 Peter 3:18-4:6**

Questions for discussion and reflection

1. What questions have you wrestled with lately about the nature of suffering in this world and what God is doing?

2. Read 1 Peter 3:18-22. What are some of the blessings that Christ’s death was a “once for sins” death? Read Hebrews 9:23-28 for some more thoughts on this.

3. How does the suffering of Jesus as “the righteous for the unrighteous” encourage us when we suffer?

4. How did God demonstrate patience in the days of Noah? What did He wait for? What is the connection between His purposes on that day and His purposes in the suffering of Christ?

5. Did the 8 who were brought safely through the water get what they deserved? What accounts for the God’s actions toward them?

6. How is baptism an appeal to God? If it is not the washing of the water that saves you, what is the substance behind what baptism represents?

7. Read 1 Peter 4:1-6. Why do we need to be armed when it comes to suffering? Where is the battle? How are we susceptible to attack?

8. What does Peter mean that “the time that is past suffices” for sin? What is the point there and why do we need to be challenged by it?

9. Have you experienced surprise from others when you didn’t join them in some activity that you knew was wrong? What did God teach you through that about yourself and about Him?

10. How do the eternal realities of the coming judgment arm us to suffer well in whatever we face?

Next week: 1 Peter 4:7-11