

# 1 Peter 2:21-25

## Suffering with Christ, Part 1

(a.k.a. These are difficult sayings)

Jeremy Doan

Holly Hills Bible Church

3 May 2015

# What God wants

*21 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,*

- *You have been called*
  - See also 3:9 – *for you were called for the very purpose...*
  - And 2:15 – *For such is the will of God...*
  - The Will of God?
    - That which God wants us to do?
    - Or that which God has determined to be so?
    - Romans 8:28-30
- *for this purpose*
  - *This* is pronoun referring back to previous clause
  - 3:20 – *But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.*
    - How is this “gracious in the sight of God”?

## In his steps

*21 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,*

- *since Christ also suffered for you*
  - *Since (or because)* – ties this to previous phrase
  - *Suffer* – same word used in vs. 19 & 20
  - Results of this suffering is explained in vs. 24-25
- *leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps*
  - *Example* – "a writing copy, including all the letters of the alphabet, given to beginners as an aid in learning to draw them"<sup>1</sup>
  - *Follow* – "to tread in one's footsteps i.e. to imitate his example"<sup>2</sup>
- The following verses detail Christ's example to us
  - And also Christ's presence in the world – Hebrews 4:14-16

---

<sup>1</sup>Blue Letter Bible (BLB)

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

# What are we doing here?

What does it mean to be the body of Christ in the world?

- To our fellow believer:
  - We display God's Grace through love
  - Throughout the epistle Peter encourages towards care and compassion and hospitality and unity and so forth
  - God cares for his own (mostly) through his own<sup>3</sup>
- To those outside the church:
  - Acts 1:8 – *you shall be My witnesses...even to the remotest part of the earth*
  - We are witnesses/testimonies of God's grace through our response to persecution<sup>4</sup>
  - Christ's sacrifice is present in us
    - See 2 Corinthians 4:5-12
    - Examples: Stephen

---

<sup>3</sup>setting aside miracles for a moment

<sup>4</sup>this is just one way, for the record, but an prominent one

# The Golden Standard

*22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;*

- Quoted from Isaiah 53:9 <sup>5</sup>
  - These last verses of chapter 2 are a quote/paraphrase of Isa.53
- *WHO COMMITTED NO SIN*
  - Who among us can remain perfect in the face of persecution?
  - What do we do when we fall short of this standard?
    - and does this say anything about what to do when we are punished for wrongdoing?
- *NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH*
  - *Deceit* – used again in 2:1 & 3:10
  - How might we be deceitful when facing persecution?

---

<sup>5</sup>same passage used with the Ethiopian Eunuch

## An eye for an eye

*23 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;*

- *while being reviled, He did not revile in return*
  - Revile – to reproach, rail at, revile, heap abuse upon<sup>6</sup>
  - See 1 Corinthians 4:9-16
  - Peter reiterates this in 3:9
- *while suffering, He uttered no threats*
  - What could he have threatened?
- *kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously*
  - Is “entrusting” the same thing as “resting”?
  - See also 1:17
- Notice the contrast here: snapping back vs. resting in God’s justice
  - See Romans 12:19

---

<sup>6</sup>BLB