

# TELOS

*Telos (Greek): def.: striving for a goal, completing your purpose . It means achieving maturity, and undivided wholeness in a person's behavior. For the Christian it means becoming like Jesus.*

*"We proclaim Christ, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ"*

*Col. 1:28*

**Volume 8 Number 4**

*Tribew Alliance Church*

## Transform Us

In these days of the tsunami aftermath we have been overwhelmed with images of human suffering. The immensity of the tragedy goes beyond anything my mind can comprehend. Life for tens of thousands of people has been transformed by their circumstances. They had no choice in the matter. Life was abruptly altered, changed forever.

As a follower of Christ I am promised a life of suffering. As I pursue God's will for my life, I am choosing to share in Christ's suffering. One thing I am reminded of time after time is that God has not promised me a life of ease and painlessness.

I remember praying as a teenager that God would make me more like Himself, that He would use me to minister to others and bring honor to His Name. When I prayed that prayer I was sincere. At the time I did not realize that God would bring distressing times into my life to accomplish His purpose. As I look back at some difficult times in my life, I can honestly say that I am thankful that God used these difficulties to bring me to Himself. When life is trouble free it's easy to rely on my own strength and pursue my own agenda.

God used hard times in my life to teach me the importance of His Word. As I began to read my Bible God began a transforming work in my heart. I didn't always understand what I read, but God's Word is a powerful book, unlike any other. There is an undeniable power in the Truth. When Truth is proclaimed the darkness has no choice but to flee. Sometimes hardships are accompanied by isolation and loneliness. When you have no one left to turn to God becomes very significant.

This week as you study 1 Peter 4, I pray that the Truth of God's Word will be a light in your darkness.

# I Peter

**Recommended Resources:**

*When God Doesn't Make Sense* by Dr. James Dobson

*When God Weeps* by Joni Eareckson Tada

*Where is God When it Hurts?* By Philip Yancey

*The Gift of Pain* by Dr. Paul Brand and Philip Yancey

1 Peter Commentary by Dr. Grant C. Richison *Grace Notes*  
Publication [wdoud@bga.com](mailto:wdoud@bga.com)

**Memory Verse:**

*Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin.  
<sup>2</sup> As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. 1 Peter 4:1,2*

DAILY BIBLE STUDY

# Monday

## Sharing in Christ's sufferings

Read 1 Peter 4:1-19 in the Message translation  
(focus on verses 1-6)

***"Since Jesus went through everything you're going through and more, learn to think like him. Think of your sufferings as a weaning from that old sinful habit of always expecting to get your own way. Then you'll be able to live out your days free to pursue what God wants instead of being tyrannized by what you want.***

***You've already put in your time in that God-ignorant way of life, partying night after night, a drunken and profligate life. Now it's time to be done with it for good. Of course, your old friends don't understand why you don't join in with the old gang anymore. But you don't have to give an account to them. They're the ones who will be called on the carpet – and before God himself.***

***Listen to the Message. It was preached to those believers who are now dead, and yet even though they died (just as all people must), they will still get in on the life that God has given in Jesus.***

*Everything in the world is about to be wrapped up, so take nothing for granted. Stay wide-awake in prayer. Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything. Be quick to give a meal to the hungry, a bed to the homeless – cheerfully. Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it: if words, let it be God's words; if help, let it be God's hearty help. That way, God's bright presence will be evident in everything through Jesus, and he'll get all the credit as the One mighty in everything – encores to the end of time. Oh, yes!*

*Friends, when life gets difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job. Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner.*

*If you're abused because of Christ, count yourself fortunate. It's the Spirit of God and his glory in you that brought you to the notice of others. If they're on you because you broke the law or disturbed the peace, that's a different matter. But if it's because you're a Christian, don't give it a second thought. Be proud of the distinguished status reflected in that name!*

*It's judgement time for Christians. We're first in line. If it starts with us, think what it's going to be like for those who refuse God's Message!*

“For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,”  
1 Peter 3:18

“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps,”  
1 Peter 2:21

“But it now seemed clear that the periods of sharpest suffering had been the very occasions of spiritual growth. Trials had purged sin and developed character; poverty had taught him dependence on God and cleansed him of greed; failure and public disgrace had helped cure worldly ambition. A clear pattern emerged: pain could be transformed, even redeemed.” (*Where is God When It Hurts?* By Philip Yancey p.73)

“I long for a commercial that at least acknowledges some benefit to pain: ‘First, listen to your pain. It is your own body talking to you.’ I too may take an aspirin to relieve a tension headache, but only after pausing to ask what brought on the nervous tension that provoked the headache. I have taken antacid for stomach pain, but not before considering what I might have eaten to give me such pain. Did I eat too much? Too fast? Pain is no invading enemy, but a loyal messenger dispatched by my own body to alert me to some danger.” (*The Gift of Pain* by Dr. Paul Brand and Philip Yancey p.188)

“‘Mind’ literally means to put in the mind. ‘Mind’ is a particular manner or way of thinking, a disposition or manner of thought, an attitude. This word ‘mind’ can mean purpose, intention, design. This word deals with forming motivations.” (1 Peter Commentary

*“If good people barely make it,  
What’s in store for the bad?”*

*So if you find life difficult because you’re doing what God said, take it in stride. Trust him. He knows what he’s doing, and he’ll keep on doing it.”*

1. What are your observations and thoughts as you read this chapter?
2. This passage begins with the word ‘therefore’ referring back to chapter three and the truth Peter spoke about in verse 18. What is the connection between verses 3:18 and 4:1?
3. As a follower of Christ, how do you feel about His invitation to share in His sufferings? (see also 1 Peter 2:21) Is it possible to escape suffering? If you choose not to share in Christ’s suffering, are there other forms of sufferings? Look at verses 1-4 and contrast the life of one following Christ and one that does not choose Christ.

### **Prayer**

God, I praise you because you are the Creator and Sustainer of life. Thank you that you have a plan for my life. Take the hard times in my life and use them to make me more like You. God, help me not to lose sight of You through the pain. Redeem my suffering so that You might be glorified in my life.

# Tuesday

## Death produces power

Read 1 Peter 4:1-19

### John 12:24

"I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

### Luke 9:23-24

". . . If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it."

### Galatians 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

"Crucifixion is the result of our decision to yield ourselves to God as he allows various pressures and problems and pain into our lives. These things are often a part of our lives anyway, but in the lives of God's children, they are not wasted. They are used to put us to death that we might be raised to an abundant . . . victorious . . . blessed . . . fruitful . . . powerful . . . Christlike . . . Spirit-filled life." (*My Heart's Cry* by Anne Graham Lotz p. 63)

"The only reason you and I are spiritually alive is because He died!" (*My Heart's Cry* by Anne Graham Lotz p. 62)

1. What is the main principle in these verses?
2. Why is this principle of dying to self key to following Christ?
3. What is our hope in death? Read John 11:25 "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'"
4. In what ways have you had to die to self? How has God blessed you or brought an increase in your life because of this brokenness?

## Prayer

God show me any area of my life where I have not put to death my selfish ambitions and plans. I praise You because You are the Resurrection and the Life. Thank you that Your Spirit is alive in me.

# Wednesday

## Live in anticipation of Christ's return

### Read 1 Peter 4:1-19

*"Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. <sup>2</sup> As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. <sup>3</sup> For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. <sup>4</sup> They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. <sup>5</sup> But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. <sup>6</sup> For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to men in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.*

*<sup>7</sup> **The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. <sup>8</sup> Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup> Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup> Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. <sup>11</sup> If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.***

*<sup>12</sup> Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. <sup>15</sup> If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. <sup>16</sup> However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. <sup>17</sup> For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup> And,*

*"If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"*

*<sup>19</sup> So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.*

### Focus on verses 7-11

1. Make a list of areas in your life where self-control exists and where it does not. What steps will you take to grow self-control in the areas where it does not exist?

"Up to this time, early Christians were relatively free from persecution. But at this point, Nero was out to persecute Christians. He used Christians as bait for wild animals and as subjects to fight gladiators. He also used them as torches to light the streets of Rome. Therefore, this was the end of a period of calm for Christians in Asia Minor." (1 Peter Commentary by Dr. Grant C. Richison p.201)

“Times of persecution and distress obligated Christians to be hospitable to one another. Some Christians lost everything they owned and were driven to distant countries for safety. This hospitality sustained people uprooted by persecution. . . Hospitality enabled these desolate Christians to relocate, to establish new businesses, to find work and to assist them on their travel. In the first century there were very few Motel 6’s or Holiday Inns. Those that did exist were places of prostitution. Hospitality became an important means of dealing with a number of issues for the church in that day.” (1 Peter Commentary by Dr. Grant C. Richison p.208)

“Comfort and ease were never intended for sinners. We can’t handle them. As someone has well said, sin gives us the terrible ability to misuse any good thing. We are deluded if we think we can rise above this less-than-perfect condition without outside help. Christ’s intervention highlights the seriousness of our situation. It took suffering and death for Him to break the bondage that holds all of God’s creation in its vicious grip. That made it possible for us to enter into new life. Now His work continues in us and with us throughout our lives, and He gives us an opportunity to cooperate in our re-creation. As believers, we inevitably find ourselves at war with our old ways, so we should not be surprised at pain and suffering in the walk of faith (1 Peter 4:1). It is all part of the gift of believing (Phil.1:29). It is the path to strength and steadiness (1 Peter 5:10). It is the process of being completed (James 1:2-3). (The Word in Life Study

2. Why is self-control and clear mindedness important to one’s prayer life?
3. Underline each command in verses 7-11. Which one is particularly challenging to you?
4. What is the result of each action Peter commands? (see verse 11)

### Prayer

Oh God, there is a constant struggle inside of me to be disciplined and self-controlled. Help me to make choices that honor You. Take control of my mind. I desire to honor You in every area of my life.

## Thursday

### Do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering . . .

#### Read 1 Peter 4:1-19

*“Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. <sup>2</sup> As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. <sup>3</sup> For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do--living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. <sup>4</sup> They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. <sup>5</sup> But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. <sup>6</sup> For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to men in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.*

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“...a person faced with extreme hardship must press himself to get tougher. Whining and self-pity, as logical as they seem, are deadly indulgences. An individual in crisis will either grow stronger or become demoralized. Within certain limits, of course, adversity can have a positive effect on people by helping to build character. For Christians, Scripture says it develops and enhances that precious characteristic called faith (James 1:2-4).

Biologists have long recognized this concept, which we'll call the adversity principle, at work in the world of plants and animals. As strange as it seems, habitual well-being is not advantageous to a species. An existence without challenge takes its toll on virtually every living thing. Just look at the flabby animals in a zoo, for example. Food is delivered to them every day, and they need do nothing but lie around and yawn. Or consider a tree planted in a rain forest. Because water is readily available, it does not have to extend its root system more than a few feet below the surface. Consequently, it is often poorly anchored and can be toppled by a minor windstorm. But a mesquite tree planted in a hostile and arid land must send its roots down 30 feet or more in search of water. Not even a gale can blow it over. Its unfriendly habitat actually contributes to stability and vigor.” (*When God Doesn't Make Sense* by Dr. James Dobson p.147)

“If it is accurate to say that hard times often lead to emotional and physical toughness, then the opposite must also be valid. And, indeed, it is. Easy living and abundance often produce a certain underlying weakness. With due respect to my fellow countrymen here in the United States, I believe we have been made soft and vulnerable by materialism and ease. Prolonged prosperity, at least as compared with the rest of the world, has given us a seductive love of comfort. I wonder at times if we could tolerate the level of deprivation that is common for most of the human family. We seem to be having enough trouble just coping with the routine pressures of living.” (*When God Doesn't Make Sense* by Dr.

*provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

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***"If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"***

***<sup>19</sup> So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.***

#### **Focus on verses 12-19**

1. When bad things happen to good people, what is your response? When hard times come your way, what do you do?
2. Underline or highlight every verb in verses 12-19. What do you notice about the words you underlined?
3. Describe Peter's response to suffering. Is it possible for you to respond this way to the suffering in your life? If not, why?
4. What reason does Peter give for the suffering of God's elect?

## Prayer

God I praise you that you are in control. Thank you that you are a God of love. God I choose to praise and worship You even in the dark times of my life. God strengthen my faith in you. Anchor me in your Word.

# Friday

## Put your hope in God and praise Him

### Read Psalm 43

*“Vindicate me, O God,  
and plead my cause against  
an ungodly nation;  
rescue me from deceitful  
and wicked men.  
You are God my stronghold.  
Why have you rejected me?  
Why must I go about mourning,  
oppressed by the enemy?  
Send forth your light  
and your truth,  
let them guide me;  
let them bring me to your holy mountain,  
to the place where you dwell.  
Then I will go to the altar of God,  
to God, my joy and my delight.  
I will praise you with the harp,  
O God, my God.  
Why are you downcast,  
O my soul?  
Why so disturbed with me?  
Put your hope in God,  
for I will yet praise him,  
my Savior and my God.”*

1. Read this psalm several times. What stands out to you?

2. Describe the psalmist's situation.

“The ‘holy mountain’ is Mount Zion, in Jerusalem, the city that David named as Israel’s capital. The temple was built there as the place for the people to meet God in worship and prayer.” (*Life Application Study Bible* p. 950)

### Let the Worshippers Arise

*Father I see that You are drawing  
A line in the sand  
And I want to be standing on Your  
side  
Holding Your hand  
So let Your kingdom come  
Let it live in me  
This is my prayer  
This is my plea*

#### *Chorus:*

*Let the worshippers arise  
Let the sons and the daughters sing  
I’m surrendering my all  
I surrender to the King  
Let the worshippers arise  
Let the sons and the daughters sing  
I’m surrendering my all  
I surrender to the King*

*Father I hear it growing louder  
The song of Your redeemed  
As the saints of every nation  
Are awakening to sing  
From our hearts  
there comes an anthem  
Oh hear the heavens ring  
This is our song, a song to our King*

Michael Ferrin  
From the Phillips, Craig and Dean  
CD *Let The Worshippers Arise*

**This Week's Writer:**



**Patti Neudorf, pictured with her husband, Brian and children, Mikayla & Clayton.**

The mission of TELOS is to help you develop the beliefs, practices and virtues of a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. TELOS is one component of our strategy at Trailview of living out our call to become a “community of servants who live to fulfill the Great Commission.

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version, Copyright 1973, 1978, International Bible Society

3. What is the psalmist's answer to his hopelessness? (verse 5)

4. Where does your hope lie?

**Prayer**

Where does your hope lie? Would you be willing to express to God that He is your source of hope? Would you be willing to offer praise to God right now for who He is?

Please spend time praying for the Pastor as he prepares to preach this Sunday .

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⇒ If you have any comments or questions about TELOS please direct them to Pastor Ken at the church office:  
phone: 773-4433 or email: [ken.trailview@sasktel.net](mailto:ken.trailview@sasktel.net)

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2 As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. I Peter 4:1,2***