

“The Challenge and Reward to Live for the Will of God” 5/26/19

1 Peter 4:1-6

Sermon Series- “Living for the Glory of God in a Hostile World”

Big Idea- To succeed in the spiritual battle related to sin and suffering, we need to arm ourselves by learning the same attitude that Jesus had in His suffering. We need to live for the will of God among unbelievers and believers.

God’s sovereignty- Amos 3:6; Lam 3:38; Isa 45:7; 1 Sam 2:6-8; Job 1:21; 2:10; 42:11; Gen 50:20; Acts 4:27; Ps 33:10-11; Isa 14:24-27;
God’s will of **desire** vs. **design**.

LESSON 1- Living for the will of God involves changing our CHARACTER

- A. The first character change we need is to have the right ATTITUDE (Philippians 2:1-10; Luke 9:23-26; Matthew 10:38-39; **Hebrews 5:7-8**)
- B. The characteristics of our new life should be in contrast to our OLD LIFE (**Ephesians 2:1-6**; 4:17; Titus 3:3; Romans 13:13)
- C. Living for the glory of God considers that we are to be REWARDED (**Romans 2:5-8**; **2 Thess 1:6-9**; Revelation 20:11-15; 2 Cor 5:10)

Going Deeper *God wants us to practice suffering vs. sin knowing we will be rewarded!*

*Even those Christians who do not suffer persecution for the faith are called to the suffering of self denial. Sin is often thought of as being motivated by the temptation for pleasure. But perhaps the real power of sin lies in the avoidance of pain and suffering. It is better to suffer unfilled needs and desires than to sin. Is this not what self-denial means? Jesus linked self-denial with following in His footsteps when He said, “Those who would be my disciples must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me” (Mark 8:34). For instance, isn’t the temptation to lie often an attempt to save face rather than face the consequences of the truth? Isn’t sexual sin often the alternative to suffering by living with deep emotional and physical needs unmet? According to Peter, the pain and suffering that self-denial brings is a godly suffering that **is better** than yielding to sin. (Karen Jobes, 1 Peter Commentary)*

Our Vision- *Striving to be Disciples who make Disciples*