

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

In The Midst - Week 2

Dale Stephenson

Introduction

The Apostle Peter wrote his two letters to the early church as they were facing a time of persecution and suffering for their faith at the hands of the Roman empire. Peter wanted to encourage the early believers to stand strong in a time of opposition, and to help them see God at work despite the challenges. In many ways we are seeing a similar social trend towards this scenario in our society today.

Bible Passage

1 Peter 1:6-7, 1 Peter 3:8-18

Discussion

1. When have you experienced a level of persecution for what you believe? Share.
2. "Civic totalism is where the individual person loses their rights to their personal beliefs as civic authorities exercise pressure against them to seek to realign their beliefs with 'progressive' social standards." How can we respond in a Godly way to this reality?
3. Read 1 Peter 1:6-7. How might pressure from modern civic totalism refine your faith?
4. Some traditional moral and biblical views today can be seen as immoral in the society that we live in. What can we do to uphold Christian values?

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5. Read 1 Peter 3:13-14. Why might these verses be seen as a warning for us today? How can they encourage us?
6. Read 1 Peter 3:15. How does this verse help to refine our methodology of mission today? How can we best personally share our faith in a disarming way?

Respond

As we look across the pages of history we quickly recognise the reality that the more the Church has been persecuted, the more the message of the gospel has spread. While we may feel uncomfortable in the face of opposition in our society today, with increased pressure being placed upon our faith, God can use this time for the expansion of His Kingdom.

Take a moment to pray for each other and encourage one another towards the opportunities that God will open for us in our modern times.

