

Sunday – November 29, 2020

Pastor David Higa
Grace, Mercy, Hope – In the Midst of Suffering
1 Peter 5:1-14

But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. [1 Peter 5:10]

Grace, mercy, and hope are key themes in 1 Peter; suffering is an important sub-theme. In the midst of suffering, something that we all experience in this life, we can respond with grace, mercy, and hope. Impossible, you might say. Yes, I would agree. It is impossible in the natural man; it is quite possible supernaturally.

When Stephen was stoned his final words were, “Lord, do not charge them with this sin.” [Acts 7:60] That was radical faith! Yet it is a faith that we can experience and have in the here and now. It is a genuine work of the Holy Spirit.

“The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church” [Tertullian], and describes so many who have gone before us. Even today the sheer number of Christians dying for their faith are more than ever before. Yet it continues to be His grace, mercy, and hope that flows from these martyrs that cultivate the harvest.

“The harvest truly is plentiful but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” [Matt 9:37-38] The reality, however, is that the laborer will experience suffering. Jesus warned, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the Kingdom of God.” [Luke 9:52] The context of this is discipleship, a follower of Christ [“following Jesus”]. Count the cost when following Jesus, because there is one.

The late great football coach Vince Lombardi, a Christian, said to his championship team that “the real glory is getting knocked to your knees and getting up.”

In this life we get knocked down, and not only once. In suffering we learn to hold on to Jesus for dear life, because it is in Jesus that we are humbled and refueled with supernatural grace, mercy, and hope.

In these we rise [again and again] and press onward and upward toward the goal of His glory.

This Week:

Sun Morning Services – Livestreamed Only

- 7:30 am 1 Peter 5:1-14
- 9:30 am 1 Peter 5:1-14
- 11:30 am 1 Peter 5:1-14

Sun Evening Service – Serving “To Go” Meals Only.

- 6:30–7:30 pm Pickup “To Go” meals at HT Church Office.

Wed Evening Service – Livestreamed Only

- 7:30 pm Isaiah 42-43

Fri Evening – HT Home Group

6:30-8:30 pm 1 Peter 5:1-14

Worship Services:

Sundays at 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

All Services Live Streamed at www.ccEchoPark.com

Sunday Evening at 6:30 p.m.

Church Office - The Hidden Treasure Bookshop
1822 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, 90026

Only Serving “To Go” Meals



Monthly Fellowship

Our Nov monthly fellowship is today, Sun, right after the third service, from **2:00-4:00 pm**, at our church office parking lot, 1822 W. Temple St. Join us for worship, warm fellowship, and sharing of the Word. Please RSVP as soon as you can.

Weekly Friday Night HT Home Group

Join us at our Fri Night HT Home Group, 6:30-8:30 pm, at our Church Office.

Live Streamed Services

- **Sunday Morning** [7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM] – 2 Peter
- **Wednesday Evening** [7:30 PM] - Isaiah

Sunday Evening Service

- Only serving “To Go” meals for pickup from 6:30-7:30 pm. No formal service.

Online Giving

Now available at www.ccEchoPark.com



The Hidden Treasure Bible Bookshop & Boutique is open for email & phone orders! Call 213.413.3865 or email ccEchoPark@sbcglobal.net.

Audio messages at: www.ccEchoPark.com. CDs for \$1.

DailyBibleReading: 11/30 – 12/06: 1 Cor 5 – 2 Cor 13. Reading plan at Information Table.

SpanishTranslation is available during our services using small remote earpiece units. Please come to the Information Table.

PrayerRequests: We are available for prayer right after the service or you can fill out a **PrayerCard** and drop it in the offering box.

As a courtesy, please turn off cell phones and pagers during service.