



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 176 - Why Would I Want to be Different?

(1 Peter)

Why Are You Different?

Peter shows us a subtle and wonderful way to witness our faith to our friends and neighbors—by our attitude and our actions. When we can face problems and crises with confidence and cheerfulness, they'll want to know why we are so different. That is a natural opportunity to talk about the difference Christ makes in our lives.

- What pressures tempt you to hide the difference Christ makes in your life and act just like everyone else?
- How does hiding our faith keep us from enjoying the full comfort of Christ's presence in all our problems and trials?
- Why do our neighbors and society in general need us to live out our Christian difference?

Jesus' Descent into Hell

Peter is writing to help Christians who are experiencing persecution. He reminds us how Jesus was persecuted to the point of suffering and death. Yet in that death He won forgiveness for all. After rising, but before appearing to His disciples, Jesus descended into hell to declare God's righteous judgment to those who had ignored Noah's warning and perished in the flood. He reminds us of the end for all those who now oppose Jesus Christ.

- How does this victorious act of Jesus encourage us to stand strong in faith when we are persecuted?
- When we face persecution why is it comforting to remember Jesus' sufferings for us?
- Why is it vital to keep Judgment Day and eternity in mind whenever we are going through persecution?

It's Going to Get Worse

Perhaps Peter saw the writing on the wall. He knew the fiery persecutions and martyrdoms that would soon break out. That's why he writes, "Beloved, don't be surprised by the fiery ordeal, but rejoice to share Christ's suffering."

- In the face of persecution and possible death for our faith, why is it essential to focus on Jesus?
- What harm would it cause for Christians to be silent and keep our faith to ourselves, if in so doing we can avoid such fiery ordeals?
- What can we do now to be prepared for such times?