

letter to elect exiles

FIRST PETER

#55 CHRIST'S CURRICULUM ON COURAGE, 2

2CHR.29:1-8,15-19/1PET.3:10-17

1) THE LOGIC OF COURAGE IN THE CHRISTIAN MIND

If my Lord Jesus is ceaselessly guarding and preparing me for eternal glory as I follow him in faith and obedience (3:12) — yes, he micro-manages my life! — then two conclusions follow. First, no one can do me ultimate harm in body or soul, but all is over-ruled by my loving Lord for my good (3:13). Secondly, even when I do suffer insult, injury, or death for Jesus' sake, I can receive it as his blessing. It reveals that I no longer belong to the dying world but to the living God, who through this pain is preparing me to reign with Christ forever, who will at his return infinitely over-compensate me in love for any loss I bore for his name's sake (3:14).

Psalm 34:18-19 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

Psalm 56:4 In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?

Matthew 5:11-12 Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

2) THE EXCHANGE OF FEARS IN THE CHRISTIAN HEART

A. Don't Be Afraid of Man; Worship Jesus Christ as God

B. Sanctify Christ as Lord in Your Hearts

Isaiah 8:12-14 Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. But the Lord of hosts, him you shall regard as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. And he will become a sanctuary...

2 Peter 1:1-2 Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.