

**Eden Baptist Church**  
**Morning service 29 March 2020**

PreService Helps

Hi Everyone,

We will be looking at 1 Peter 1: 6-7 in the sermon.

You will find it helpful to read the whole of 1 Peter 1 :3-9 before hand.

You will find:

1. The sermon structure with some comments
2. The actual sermon notes
3. The quotes I used with the sermon (and the ones I didn't)

The sermon is a bit longer than last week I am afraid. You can always pause and come back later if you need a break!!

God be with you  
With love in the Lord

Julian

.....

**Intro** – the Christian life is a mixture of joy and suffering like oil and vinegar in a salad dressing. Parents may want to explain to very young children in advance what oil and vinegar are – and even show them how these two liquids combine when shaken but otherwise separate out.

**Point 1 The reality of suffering**

There will be a pause for those who want it to reflect as follows

Qs after point 1 : It is true that we assume our lives ought to be free of suffering? Why is this? 2. How does it help us to hear that suffering in the Christian life is normal?

**Point 2 The reason for suffering**

This will include Isaiah 48:11

Again a pause for those who want to discuss or think about

Qs for point 2 break. 1. How do you feel about being told that trials and suffering \*must\* come? 2. What does Peter say that trials do in the life of a Christian? How have you seen that either in your own life or someone else's?

**Points 3 The result of suffering**

[no pause but straight into]

#### **Point 4 Rejoicing with suffering**

Two stories the Biodome experiment and peach growing (see text of quotes below)

No break after point 3 but final screen of qs for after the service: Which of the illustrations (or points) that Julian used today had the most impact on you? Why? What is God saying to you through that? Share this with those you are with or connected with, or meditate on it on your own. Then pray about what you have received

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1 Peter 1 6-7

Intro: Oil/vinegar mixed  
Salvation AND suffering

#### **The reality of suffering**

Variety: Trials

Painful – emotionally

Limited –

*Is coronavirus a terrifying killer or a manageable risk? We still don't know*

Realism about life and Xtian life CSL Q

#### **The Reason for suffering**

Less obvs, more controversial

'may have had' – 'have come'

But if no purpose then much worse

Faith needs it Q1

Athletics – stress to get fitter

Gold refining. Is 48:10 Q4

Burns out Superficiality/self-reliance/  
this-worldliness. Q3

Better than gold Q2 esp. when purpose not obvs

NHS manager friend. Q6 Q7

#### **The Result of suffering**

The sharing of honour etc

Us praising him – some of his purposes only known then

Q8

#### **Rejoicing with suffering**

Oil/vinegar

Looks like contradiction

Birds begin to sing before dawn

Q9 Biodome experiment

Q10 Pruning/Frost

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1 Peter 1 6-7 These are the quotes I was planning to use. The ones I didn't use are in italics but I thought you might enjoy them anyway

1. Faith is a sound sea-going vessel, and was not meant to lie in dock and perish of dry rot. To whom God has given faith, it is as though one gave a lantern to his friend because he expected it to be dark on his way home. Spurgeon

2. *It is indeed natural to us to wish and to plan and it is merciful in the Lord to disappoint our plans, and to cross our wishes....Newton*

3. In long-term suffering, if you don't give into self-pity, slowly, almost imperceptibly, self dies. This death of self offers ideal growing conditions for love. Paul Miller

4. If God brings us into the trial  
He will be with us in the trial  
And at length bring us out, more refined  
We shall lose nothing but dross Stibbes: BR p.54

5. God loves being trusted more than anything else - Calvin

6. I do not know whether my experience is that of all God's people, but I am afraid that all the grace that I have got out of my comfortable and easy times and happy hours, might almost lie on a penny. But the good that I have received from my sorrows, and pains, and griefs, is altogether incalculable. What do I not owe to the hammer and the anvil, the fire and the file? What do I not owe to the crucible and the furnace, the bellows that have blown up the coals, and the hand which has thrust me into the heat? Affliction is the best bit of furniture in my house. It is the best book in a minister's library. We may wisely rejoice in tribulation, because it works patience, and patience experience, and experience hope, and by that way we are exceedingly enriched, and our faith grows strong. Spurgeon

7. *Rose Dowsett on her daughter-in-law's post-natal cancer and psychosis: Some have asked us whether this horrible experience has disturbed our faith. Rachel has never felt the need to ask "Why me?". For her, in this broken world, it makes more sense to ask "Why not me?" The tumour diagnosis was frightening: the steroid-induced psychosis was even worse. We have all been frightened, crying with anxiety and weariness. The future has sometimes been unthinkable. But we worship the Lord Jesus Christ who really understands suffering, comes with us in it with encouragement and help, and gives us a beautiful hope. We have all frequently wondered how people cope without him. And we have been amazingly supported by the compassion and prayers of people like you all over the world. We have felt greatly loved by God and by many people too.*

8. God forces us into situations where we have to grow. It seems to us all unnecessary but that is because we have not slightest notion of the tremendous thing he means to make of us. CSL

9. Some years ago there was a celebrated experiment in the Arizona desert, called the Biosphere 2 experiment. They built huge glass and steel 'biomes' on a two acre site; dome-like structures containing five climatic zones with miniature rainforest, savannah, desert, ocean and marsh, all air-tight, self-supporting and built to see if human beings could live on Mars. Their ecosystem failed in various ways: for instance oxygen levels fell, ants and cockroaches multiplied hugely, and the trees which grew so fast, up to twenty feet a year in the protected conditions, toppled over because in the absence of wind they had not put their roots down deep and grown strong against resistance. 'Oak trees in storms take deeper root' says an old proverb and the same, says Paul, is true for Christians. 'Perseverance produces character'. His word 'character' refers to 'the quality of a person who has been tested and has passed the test'. P Lewis. Lords Prayer

10. a young man in California who was trying to develop his business as a peach-grower. He had worked hard investing all he had in a peach orchard. It blossomed wonderfully in the spring and his hopes were high. Then came a late frost which killed all the blossoms, preventing any harvest of fruit for that year. The young man was a Christian but he felt so enraged that he stopped away from church for several weeks. When the minister came to him he said 'How can I worship a God who cares so little for me that he lets a late frost kill all my peaches? The pastor looked at him in silence for a few moments and then said 'John, God loves you more than your peaches. He knows that while peaches do better without frosts it's impossible to grow the best people without frosts. His object is to grow men and women not peaches. Our trouble is that we want green-house treatment. But we are not plants but people. God's people. Our place is not under glass but out in the elements; not on shelves but in crowds; not ripening by hanging in the sun but by working in all weathers. God is still growing people not peaches. [P Lewis again]