Tough Times

Tony Mauck · 1 Peter 4:12–19

INTRODUCTION

- The idea of the lessons will be the challenges of living as a Christian. And they are real.
- If that were not the case, there would not be nearly so many casualties on the spiritual battlefield.

1 It Is With Difficulty That the Righteous Is Saved

1 Peter 4:12–13; 1 Peter 4:18–19

- Yes, there are some tough times that believers must endure as they exercise faith.
- Rejoice to the degree that you get to share in the sufferings of Christ. And keep on rejoicing, he says.
- It is with difficulty that the righteous is saved. Difficulty. It's part of the territory.
- Let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful creator in doing what is right.
- The devil is opposed to your choice and decision. And he wants to devour you. But he is not so ferocious and powerful that you cannot defeat him.

2 It's Really Hard to Be Lost

Hebrews 2:3; Hebrews 11

- There is the ministry of angels, ministering spirits sent out to serve the elect.
- We have a sympathizing high priest. He is able to save forever those who draw near to him.
- We have so much going for us. But really, it's hard to be lost.

3 My Thoughts Are Not Your Thoughts

Isaiah 55:8–9

- My thoughts are not your thoughts. Neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.
- As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways to your ways and my thoughts to your thoughts.
- This should fundamentally affect the way you view Scripture when we're talking about God's thoughts and his ways.

4 You Have to Develop a Spiritual Mind

Romans 12:1–2; Ephesians 4:22–24; Colossians 3:9–10

- You have to develop a spiritual mind. And that's hard. Because we live in a carnal world.
- Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed, be changed by the renewing of your mind. That's making God's thoughts and God's ways yours.

- You lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind.
- Put on the new self. Who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the one who created him?

5 A Spiritual Perspective Versus a Carnal Perspective

2 Corinthians 4:17–18; Matthew 6:19–21; Colossians 3:1–2

- You've got to have a spiritual perspective versus a carnal perspective.
- Our momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.
- We do not look to the things which are seen. But to the things which are unseen.
- For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. These passages are all about perspective.
- The more you look at life through a carnal lens, the more impossible it will seem to live as a Christian.

6 Develop the Right Kind of Thinking

Ephesians 6; Colossians 1:27; 2 Corinthians 5:17

- How are you going to develop the right kind of thinking?
- We need to spend time in the Word. The more time we spend away from the Word, we become carnal in our thinking.
- We also need the strength and the encouragement that comes from other people who have a spiritual mind.
- If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things have passed away. Behold, new things have come.

THE CHALLENGE

The way won't be a piece of cake. It is with difficulty that the righteous is saved. But the rewards are worth every effort, every investment.

MY NOTES