

<p>A</p>	<p><u>Overview of Scripture</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus: when facing religious persecution, the faithful should be prepared to suffer for Christ's sake. • Who can harm you if you are "zealous for what is right"? Blessed are those who suffer for righteous' sake. "Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence" (1Pet 3:15). Your good conscience will put the abusers to shame. "It is better to suffer for doing right ... than for doing wrong" (1Pet 3:17). • Christ also died once for all. After His resurrection, he "went and preached to the spirits in prison". The days of Noah foretell Baptism that "appeal to God for a clear conscience". Christ, who has brought salvation, has already "gone into heaven". • We should bear suffering as Christ has suffered "in the flesh"; live free from sins and obey God's will for the rest of our lives. The rest of our lives must be "ceased from sin". Those who are against you must "give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead". Even the dead "might live in the spirit like God" due to the Gospel. The "end of all things" is near, "keep sane and sober for your prayers". "Each has received a gift, employ it for one another"; live as "good stewards of God's varied grace"; "in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ". 	<p>1Pet 3:13 - 4:11</p> <p>3:13-17</p> <p>3:18-22</p> <p>4:1-11</p>
<p>B</p>	<p><u>Bearing Witness to Christ's Suffering and Suffering for Christ's Sake</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No one may harm you if you are zealous for doing right. You will be blessed if you suffer for righteousness' sake. Therefore, do not fear those who "abuse" you. • Christ's Crucifixion is an invitation of love. This invitation does not encourage us to suffer but it prompts us to follow Christ's example; Christ, who courageously embraces suffering out of love, gives himself up for others. • How may we defend ourselves against those "who reviled [our] good behaviour"? Firstly, "in your hearts reverence Christ as Lord"; secondly, "always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence". • Conclusion: "For it is better to suffer for doing right, if that should be 	<p>3:13-17</p> <p>CCSS, CSB, Mt 5:10-11, Is 8:12, Lk 12:4</p> <p>SN1, SN2</p> <p>CCSS, CSB</p>

Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church
Bible Sharing Program 2018-19
Session #4: Living as God's Chosen People and
Temple: Suffering

	God's will, than for doing wrong" = 2:19-20, such is the right attitude for all Christians.	CCSS
C	<p><u>Christ Triumphs Over Suffering</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christ's suffering is "once for all"; he "died for sins"; his death is "the righteous for the unrighteous"; "that he might bring us to God". • Jesus "bring[s] us to God": "being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit; in which he went and preached to the spirits in prison"; He then ascended into heaven and is seated "at the right hand of God". • Meaning of "made alive in the spirit; in which he went and preached to the spirits in prison": <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. According to the Church's traditions: Christ, after his death, descended into Hades in his spirit to save the righteous awaiting salvation. 2. In Gen 6:1-4, according to several Jewish texts and the Book of Enoch, Christ enters the underworld in spirit to proclaim victory to the angels in prison and salvation to the righteous awaiting salvation. • Passages about the significance of Purgatory: 1. CCC 632-3; 2. Sheol (HB), Hades (GK), different from Gehenna (CCC 1034), Lk 16:22-26; 3. Acts 2:27, Eph 4:9; Mt 12:32, Lk 1:58, CCC 1031. • Water prefigures Baptism – St. Paul affirming the use of prefiguration. 	<p>3:18-22</p> <p>3:18, Heb 7:27</p> <p>CSB p 456, CCSS</p> <p>J. Naz I p. 215</p> <p>CCSS</p>
D	<p><u>Christians Living: Accept Suffering and Live in Obedience to God</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accept suffering as Christ has suffered, "so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer by human passions but by the will of God". Do not be troubled by those who "abuse" you as you refuse to join them in "the same wild debauchery" for they will be judged by God. • "For this is why the gospel was preached even to the dead" – scholars disagree with the some who regard there's a link with 3:19; "the dead" does not refer to "the spirits in prison"; but refers to the evangelization of Christians who have since died in the hope of a future resurrection. • "The end of all things is at hand", therefore "keep sane and sober for your prayers", "practice hospitality ungrudgingly to one another", "in everything God may be glorified". For Peter, God's salvific plan has been fulfilled in the coming of Christ; we are living in the "end times". 	<p>4:1-11</p> <p>CSB, CCSS, Wis 3:1-4</p> <p>1:20</p>

Special Notes: Please refer to Chinese handouts.