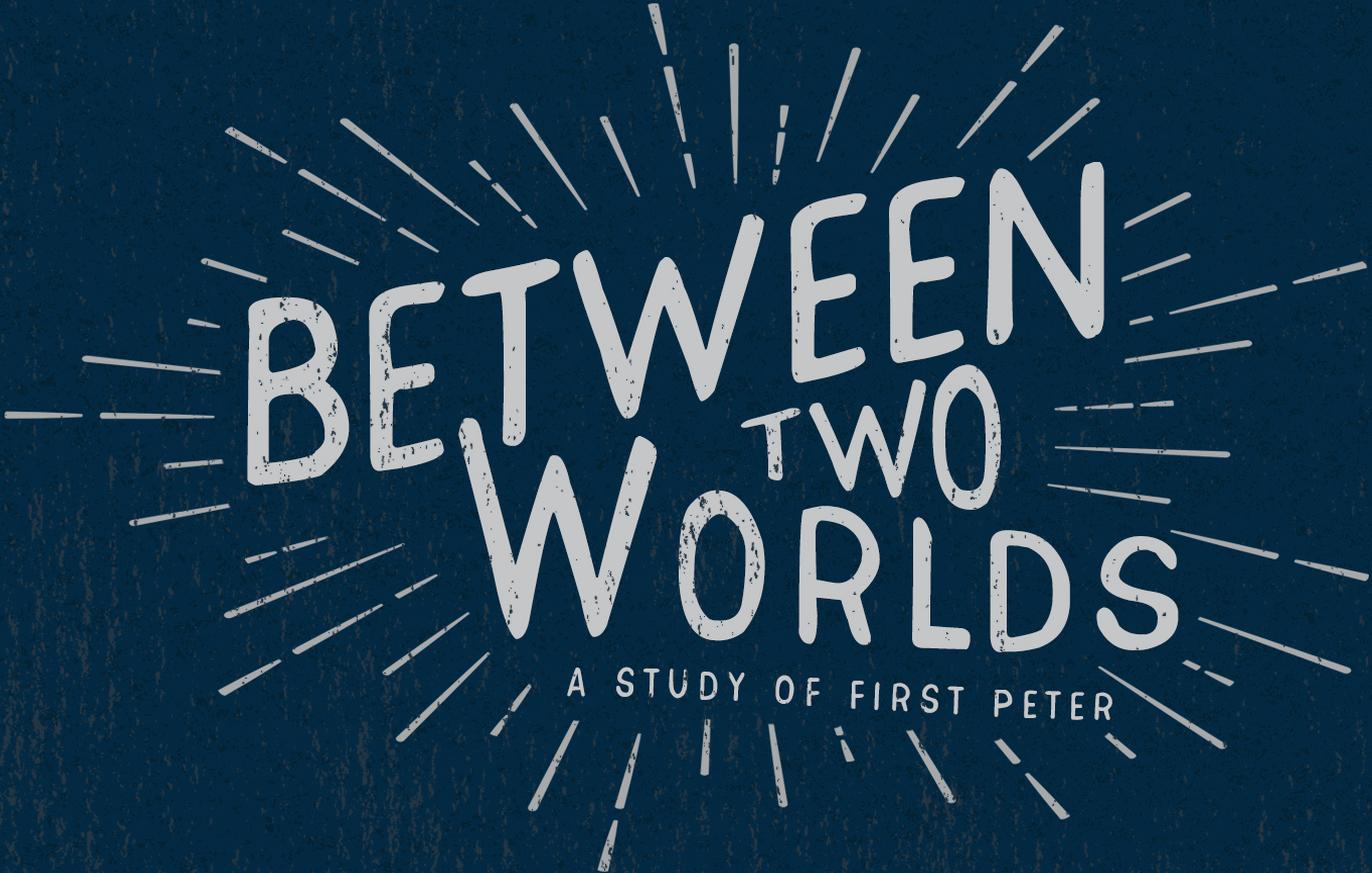




HOPE

LOWERTOWN

ST. PAUL

The title 'BETWEEN TWO WORLDS' is rendered in a white, hand-drawn, distressed font. The word 'BETWEEN' is on the top line, 'TWO' is smaller and positioned between 'BETWEEN' and 'WORLDS', and 'WORLDS' is on the bottom line. The text is surrounded by numerous white lines of varying lengths radiating outwards, creating a sunburst or starburst effect. The background is a dark blue with a subtle, grainy texture.

BETWEEN
TWO
WORLDS

A STUDY OF FIRST PETER



This week's Message:
"Don't be surprised"
1 Peter 4:12-19

1 Peter 4:12-19

¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.

1 Peter 4:12-19

¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of

God? ¹⁸ And,

“If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹ So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

Don't be surprised

1 Peter 4:12-19

¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.

The blessing of suffering

1 Peter 4:12-19

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Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

1 Peter 4:12-19

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Peter understands that it was the Spirit of Christ who spoke to the prophets, such as Isaiah, revealing the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow (1 Pet. 1:10–12). In 4:14, Peter claims that the same Spirit of God predicted to rest upon the Messiah also rests on the believer who is willing to suffer for Jesus Christ. Peter consoles his readers that because the same Spirit of glory and of God rests upon them, their current suffering is as Christ's was, a prelude to the glory to follow.

1 Peter 4:12-19

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For this reason Peter says – because this trying situation of persecution is a judging – Christians should stand firm and unashamedly bear the name of Christ (4:16). By doing so, they bring glory to God. Therefore, the suffering they bear for the name of Christ, which is shaming them in the eyes of society, becomes their badge of honor as one of the living stones in God's spiritual house. Although Peter's logic is obscure and based on an unfamiliar tradition, he is consoling his readers by explaining why they should see rejection by society actually as honor and not shame.

For Future Glory

1 Peter 4:12-19

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“If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹ So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

The difficulty of being saved that Peter observes may not be fully appreciated by modern Western Christians for whom society has not (yet) drawn a line in the sand. Even so, how sad it is that many who once professed Christ eventually turn away under peer pressure. If that happens in a society that has a relatively great tolerance for Christianity, imagine the difficulty of living for Christ in a society where today it is illegal to be a Christian.

Trusting God while suffering

1 Peter 4:12-19

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God's Will...s

God's Will...s

Everything that God wants to happen will happen

Sovereign Will

Sovereign Will

Moral/Written Will

Sovereign Will

Moral/Written Will

Specific Will



Sovereign Will

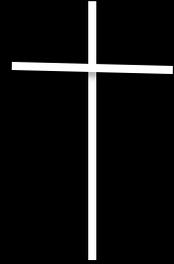
Moral/Written Will

God's Will...s

**Everything that God wants to happen will happen,
Even the things that God doesn't want to happen.**

Sovereign Will

Moral/Written Will



Acts 2:22-23

²² “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

²³ This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

Gospel Application:

When you suffer for Jesus do you look forward to your future joy?

Are you trusting God in the midst of suffering?