

West Point Gray United Church

Sunday May 19 1996 (Easter 7)

Like many contemporary western Christians I feel a little out of it when trying to deal with scripture that is addressed to people who are being persecuted for their faith. I have never seen such a thing happen to my circle of church folk, + I think we ~~unpersecuted~~ ones look with wonder at the many people throughout the world who are persecuted for what they believe. Their faith must mean a great deal to them! You get to wondering if yours means as much to you.

Some of us also feel a little out of it. with respect to another matter that gets a lot of play in today's scripture readings - that is the matter of BEARING WITNESS. - Maybe that's why we don't suffer for our faith, because we avoid bearing witness. I think we are in a little more confusion regarding this matter, and ~~may~~ even feel a little guilty about our reluctance to bear witness. But, at the same time, we ~~probably~~ think that our reluctance to undertake what power for bearing witness, ~~to~~ is for ^{good} reasons.

Anyhow how do you hear a living - Penetrating WORD from scriptural Passages that leave you so out of it?

Maybe the opening sentence of the reading from
Isaiah can be heard as referring to us??

4:12. Beloved: do not be surprised at the fiery
ordeal that is taking place among you to
test you, as though something strange were
happening to you.

Is something like that going on with you?
a strange & extremely trying time?

Archie kind of Burden

Large Dose of Misery

a Depressing down of your spirits?

* Burden of some family Responsibility for young or old
responsibilities not subject to the kind of solution you
can take any satisfaction in.

* Church Responsibility you ^{are} maintain the weakened
blessing that churching once was, while
struggling to find responses to ^{people's} needs
inevitably to generate conflict.

* Unrestrained with health-care choices you wish
you didn't have to make.

* State & Current Economic Condition - ~~Down~~
employment insecure, ^{responsible to} deal with those of
the economy and of a downswing program

* Depressed mindless sabotaging of the many
rueful peace initiatives throughout the
world.

* Submerged by the Babel of instant voices proposing
conflicting solutions to the world's problems

Enough Already

especially since it is important for you to have some room
~~from the other side of the page~~ to name your
 very own Perry Trial articles.

What word ^{has} the Author of I Poles ~~has~~ for all that?

RESOLVE in so far as you SHARE X's SUFFERING

Read the whole opistle and you will find how
 concerned the author is that his correspondence
 make the distinction between sharing X's suffering
 and suffering for other reasons - like doing wrong
 or giving magistrates a hard time.

(4 times)

WORD TRYING TIMES ??

Word to ~~identify~~ Identify - where you

suffering is a sharing of Christ's suffering,
 not a ~~simple~~ Regret in

If you Under the Regret Burden - something to Regret in

* Active Burden of a loved one who on son would let up
loves Burden - regret in

* Genuel, Work Done, Community.

Burden of responsibility for decision making
 through ambiguities would settle for a simple
 or a final solution - instead of flight from
 under that burden, Regret in all that

* Painful Trial upon finding your struggle to do good hardly begins to meet the enormity of the need, and your good works fail to bestow the blessing hoped for.

→ Fair & really easy for yourself

→ or the Needy? Sharing Xs Burden

* Under the Burden of responsibility for the sins that our institutions do for us.

Market Forces

Debt crises

Money economy

Take responsibility —

or Flight. —

Rejoice — insofar as you share Christ's suffering
insofar as the World and ~~the~~ we
is IN YOUR ARMS
instead of ON YOUR BACK.

Is that

Penetrating Word — LIVING. — carry it over countries?

Glean at other harvests

John's Gospel — kind — not goes to bed
It would be picking verses. Fair to him who
seems to think he has to wait a while
before he makes his point.

ARE BEING Fair to JOHN

When we find — to this extent the Humiliation

* It appears the Cross is not the preliminary to the Glorification / IS The Glorification
of Christ

See John the Cross is the Point of Glorification
~~According to John~~

We Glimpse the Glory of God

Church under the Burden of the
 World's sin. Loosely the world,

watch the way

* Acts Story of the Ascension unfolds

1. In the Face of disappointment -

Is the time restore the kingdom
 to Israel. all our Totals behind us -

2. Taken away - albeit wondrous -

glaring up to heaven - extending
 the ecstatic moment. -

3. Angels - Why stare to heaven -

~~return to world~~ ^{Kingdom is not delayed} ~~go~~ about how life
 is watchful expectation X will show up
 any minute.

Now with the closing words of ~~John~~ ^{1 Peter} lesson
 from 1 Peter.

The God of all grace, who has called you
 to ~~the~~ eternal Glory in Christ will restore
 support strengthen & establish you. ~~The~~
 God be the Power for ever & ever,