

# Learning to See in the Dark

## Part 3: "Arming Yourselves"

- *The drama and trauma experienced by 1st century Christians was documented by Luke in the book of Acts.*
- *The early believers didn't waste energy pondering ethereal questions, but asked instead, what can I do to help people who are different than me?*
- *These Jesus followers had hope, even when they didn't have explanations.*

### **1. Peter gives context to the sufferings of these early believers.**

**1 Peter 1:6** *For a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These (sufferings) have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith, which is of greater worth than gold, will result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.*

**Matthew 5:16** *Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

### **2. Jesus often comes to us, and someday will come for us, but we never know when.**

**John 14:18** *I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you*

**1 Peter 2:12** *Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

**Matthew 24:42** *Keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come*

### **3. Peter gives detailed instructions of what these believers were to do.**

**1 Peter 4:1** *Since Christ suffered in his body... arm yourselves also... with the same attitude (as Jesus)*

**1 Peter 4:8** *Above all, love each other deeply... because love covers over a multitude of sins.*

**1 Peter 4:9** *Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.*

**1 Peter 4:10** *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

### **4. The goal of the church was not to change the world, but to respond to a risen king.**

**1 Peter 1:3** *In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade*