

1 Peter 4:12-19

Experiencing Victory in a Hostile World

“...a primer for winning the war that really matters”

Our Approach during Suffering (4:12-13) (Part 1)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection

1. In Peter's letter, he does not address every form of suffering. Describe some of the types of suffering found in Scripture.
2. Unfortunately, a number of believers fail to grasp the future dimensions of the blessings brought about by the sacrificial work of Christ. Describe how this manifests itself today?
3. Is it true that we must suffer now in order to experience glory later?

Suffering for God's Glory (4:12-19)

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. 14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; 16 but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner? 19 Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

Today's Objectives – What does God want us to learn and do?

To challenge God's people to find joy in suffering which means that they suffer for the right reasons.

I. Peter's Premise: Believers will Suffer (1:6-9; 2:21)

A. Suffering is necessary

- God is Sovereign both in our _____ (1:1-5) and in our _____.
- No suffering occurs without _____
- God is aware of every aspect of our sorrow (Ps. 56:8), and every _____ comes from Him (Job 1, 2; Ps. 119:75).
- There is no senseless suffering for any believer. "God causes all things... _____." (Rom. 8:28)

B. Suffering exists for only a little while, but Glory lasts forever

- Our earthly suffering is _____, while heavenly glory is _____
- See 5:10

C. Rejoice in our Suffering

- “In this you rejoice” (1:6-9)....In what? _____
 - What are the elements of the Sovereign Joy of Our Salvation?
 - Prompted by _____ (3a)
 - Gives us _____ (3)
 - Hope is wrapped in an _____ (4)
 - And preserved by _____ (5a)
 - Guarded through _____ for a final salvation (_____)
 - Something else we see is that the Sovereign Joy of our Salvation will evidence itself by a faith that perseveres. Five characteristics of this persevering faith....
 - A persevering faith that:
 1. Results in _____ (6a)
 2. Stands the _____ (6b-7)
 3. Loves the _____ (Whom we have not seen) (8a)
 4. _____ in the Lord (Whom we don't see) (8b)
 5. Is the means of final _____ (9)

D. Called for this Purpose

- Look at 2:21.... “For you have been called for this purpose.....(what?)
