

1 Peter 4:12-19

Experiencing Victory in a Hostile World

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

Our Approach during Suffering (4:13-16) (Part 3)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection

1. What is the spiritual benefit of a "fiery ordeal" (1 Pet. 4:12)?
2. How should the sufferings of Christ motivate you to rejoice while enduring trials (1 Pet. 4:13)?
3. What specific way is the name of Christ the cause for reproach (1 Pet. 4:14)?
4. Why is it a privilege to suffer for righteousness?

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?

To recognize that the Completed sufferings of Christ and the Continued sufferings of Christians are being intimately related.

I. Rejoice in Suffering (4:13-14)

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.

A. Our Attitude.

- **“Keep on rejoicing”** indicates the attitude we’re to have in the midst of trials. Anything the world brings against us for the sake of righteousness is

_____.

- “_____”, for your reward in heaven is great...”
(Matt. 5:10-12; Luke 6:22-23)

- In many believers' minds, one's plight in this life should be thought of only in terms of contrast with the next. It is true that we suffer _____ in order to experience glory _____. But in verses 12-13, Peter insists that we must also think in terms of _____.
 - We must _____ in order to _____
- Acts 5:41 _____
- James 1:2-3 _____
- In our own strength, this is not possible. Joy is the divine benefit of the believer's standing in Christ and a _____ (Gal. 5:22; 1 Thess. 1:6)

B. Our Motivation.

- ***"To the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ"*** indicates that in suffering for what is right, we are _____ in the same kinds of sufferings Jesus endured.
 - Suffering for _____.
 - We can share His _____
 - Acts 5:41-42 _____
 - Acts 9:4 _____
 - 2 Tim. 4:17 _____
- ***"To the degree"*** indicates that our eternal reward is a direct reflection of our earthly suffering. (See Col. 1:24)
- What is the ***"revelation of His glory"*** referring to? _____ (Matt. 24:30)
- When he returns, believers will "rejoice with exultation."
 - Spurgeon writes: "If you do not share in Christ's humiliation, how can you expect to share in his exaltation?"
- ***"The name of Christ"*** is the cause of _____ directed toward believers. (Matt. 10:22; 24:9).
- If His name sums up all that He is, what does ***"for the name of Christ"*** mean to us? See Acts 4:12; 5:41, 9:16, 15:26).

- All the hatred and violence of the world against Christians does not diminish their _____ -- Actually, _____ for suffering. Why?...
- ...because the “ _____ ”
- What did Peter mean by this statement? Do you think there is any connection to Isa. 11:2?
- Describe some of the ways, the Holy Spirit ministers to believers today?
 - “**Glor**y” refers to _____ (Ps. 93:1; 104:1; Ex. 24:16-17; 34:5-8; 1 Kings 8:11)
 - “**Rest**” refers to _____ (Matt. 11:28-29; Mark 6:31)
 - Gal. 5:22-23 _____
 - _____
 - _____
- When you suffer for righteousness' sake, be encouraged to know that "the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. -J. Bridges
- Explain how the Holy Spirit's power rested upon Stephen (Acts 6:15; 7:55-56, 59-60).
- Read 2 Cor. 12:9-10 What was Paul's testimony regarding the Spirit's work in his life?

II. Evaluate Your Suffering (4:15-18)

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?

A. Suffering for the Wrong Reasons (vs. 15)

Is it true that not all suffering brings Holy Spirit relief? Trouble stemming from _____ does not constitute suffering

_____.

Peter lists 4 areas or categories of sin:

- The first 2 – “**murderer**” and “**thief**” are _____

- The second 2 – “**evildoer**” and “**troublesome meddler**” are _____

“**evildoer**”, a term that covers _____ 2:12 and 2:14...NIV
“any other kind of criminal”

“**troublesome meddler**” – Someone who _____ into matters that belong to someone else. Why do you believe Peter used this seemingly minor term in comparison to the previous terms?

Other verses that help us understand its meaning:

1 Thess. 4:11 _____

2 Thess. 3:11-12 _____

- How is the term to be applied in our society or in our place of employment? (1 Tim. 2:1-3; Tit. 3:1-5)

B. Suffering for the Right Reasons (vs. 16)

- “**If anyone suffer as a Christian**” his suffering qualifies for _____
- Suffering for _____as a _____ (v. 16; Acts 11:26; 26:28)
- “**To Glorify God**” means to _____ for the privilege and honor of _____ for His name.