

## Suffering and Glory; They Go Hand in Hand – 1 Peter 4:12-19 & 5:9-11

Peter continues to reinforce his teaching on suffering, by continuing his connection between the sufferings of Christ and the sufferings of Christ followers. Peter shares with us the reality that we shall all share in the sufferings of Christ if we are following Him. (**2 Tim 3:10-13**)

**2 Tim. 3:10-13, “You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.”**

First, let us consider what Peter has to say about suffering.

- Suffering should not take us by surprise, as though some strange thing is happening to us. (12)

The Christian should never conclude that since he or she is a child of God, therefore they should be shielded from suffering. Only a false gospel holds out the dream of a life devoid of pain and suffering!

- Suffering is often sent by God for the purpose of testing us. (12b)

Notice Peter calls this present experience the Christian may go through as a “fiery ordeal”. This has the image of the furnace, with it’s heat and fire, intended to purify the gold or silver, removing the dross and the impurity!

**1 Peter 1:6-7, “In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”**

**Rom 5:3-5, “Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”**

- Suffering for the believer is tempered by rejoicing. (13-14)

**How can the believer rejoice amidst great pain and suffering?** We know, without any doubt, God has a purpose in our suffering! This may not make us happy, but it will produce joy!

- When suffering for the cause of Christ, a Christian is not to be ashamed. (16)

We are not to suffer as an evildoer, but if we are accused and persecuted for the things of God, do not be ashamed! **Consider Stephen, received a standing ovation from the Lord!**

- Suffering may be in accord with the will of God. (19)

We cannot assume that all suffering is outside of God’s will. **There are storms of perfecting and storms of correcting! Example: Jonah**

- Suffering is a universally shared experience. (5:9) Consider our persecuted brothers & sisters!
- All suffering, for the Christian, will come to an end. (5:10-11)

**Elderly lady said her favorite phrase in the bible, “It came to pass”, did not come to stay!**

**Next, let us consider what Peter says about glory.**

- Rejoicing in suffering now brings the greater rejoicing when we see His glory. (13b)

There is some correlation between the suffering now and the glory later!

- We are blessed when reviled because the Spirit of glory rests on us. (14)

We never face any experience of suffering alone! We have the Spirit within us! **3 Hebrew children, 4<sup>th</sup> one in the flames!**

- We glorify the name of God when we suffer as a Christian. (16)

How we respond to our suffering, and how we respond to the suffering of a brother or sister brings praise and glory to the name of the Lord!

**Example: Like the white blood cells rally to the aid of an infected part of the body, fighting for healing and restoration, the body of Christ rallies around one another when pain and suffering is being experienced.**

**Example: Next Sunday we will take up a “love offering” for a family that has incurred medical expenses, and the loss of their jobs, both husband and wife in a matter of weeks. This is an opportunity for the Bride of Christ to be made beautiful and glorious!**

- God strengthens us in our suffering for His eternal glory. (5:10)

**Case Study: The Apostle Paul – 2 Corinthians 11:23-33; 12:7-10**

- A higher purpose in the pain. (12:7)
- There is grace given amidst the groans. (12:8a)
- There is blessing through the brokenness. (12:8b)
- There is contentment through Christ. (12:10)

**May the children of God draw near to Him, glory in Him, be satisfied in Him, and be strengthened by Him in our time of testing, trial, suffering, and adversity! Amen!**