

Theme: When faced with the fire of suffering for our faith, we are called to rejoice and entrust ourselves to our faithful God and continue to do good.

I. Intro – Double Meaning

- A. Suffering because you are a Christian
- B. How to respond to suffering in a Christian manner
- C. Peter is bringing his teaching home to conclusion
- D. We will look at both areas in this text today

II. Suffering For Being A Christian

- A. The suffering in view is persecution/ridicule
 - 1. Insulted because of the name of Christ (v14)
 - 2. Suffering is largely verbal, but becoming more
 - 3. Is not talking about normal difficulties of life
- B. Suffering for being a Christian
 - 1. Share in suffering of Christ (v13)
 - 2. Not salvific - because of Him; like Him
 - 3. Insulted because of name of Christ (v14)
 - 4. Not because of bad behavior, but Christ (v15)
 - 5. That is just punishment - not suffering
 - 6. Meddler, busybody - trying to run other lives
 - 7. Suffer as a Christian (v16)
- C. Suffering in 1 Peter

- 1. Not the troubles of this life
- 2. Not result of bad behavior on our part
- 3. Persecution for being a Christian & following God

III. A Christian Response to Suffering/Persecution

- A. Don't be surprised (v12; v4, 14); not strange
- B. Recognize suffering is part of our calling (v13, 19)
 - 1. Sufferings of Christ; will of God (v13, 19)
 - 2. Matt 10:24-25; Joh 15:18-21; 1Jo 3:13
- C. Rejoice - glory is coming! (v13)
 - 1. Rejoice???? (v13)
 - 2. Share Christ's sufferings - and glory (v13-14)
 - 3. Principle - suffering then glory (1:6-7; 1:11; Lk 24:)
- D. Judgment begins with church (v17; [Ezek 9:5-6])
 - 1. No surprise - God's method starts with church
 - 2. Rejoice - shows glory is coming!
 - 3. Rejoice - ungodly lost and not saved (v17-18)

IV. Applying the Word - Suffering As A Christian

- A. The ultimate Christian response!!! - v19 - 3 parts
- B. Do we suffer according to God's will?
 - 1. Not for our poor behavior - in spite of good

2. Do we understand that this is our time of suffering?
3. Do we expect to be ridiculed - or are we surprised?
4. Bad theology or expectations lead to bad response

C. Do we entrust ourselves to our Faithful God?

1. Do we know that God is faithful?
2. Do we know He will keep His covenant?
3. Do we know He has told us truth - eternity!
4. Do we entrust ourselves to Him to do with as He sees fit?

D. Do we continue to do good?

1. Do we do good to those who speak evil?
2. Do we do good - even if we are punished for it?

V. Communion - Entrusting Ourselves to God

- A. Here we are reminded of God's faithfulness in the past
- B. Here we are reminded of God's promises for the future
- C. Here we entrust ourselves to God

Suffering As A Christian

1 Peter 4:12-19
Psalm 31:1-5
August 22, 2010
Communion
Romans 15:13

1 Peter 4:12-19 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15 If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. 16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" 19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25 It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. **If the head of the house has been called Beelzebub, how much more the members of his household!** Matthew 10:24-25

If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 **If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.** 20 Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' **If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.** If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. 21 **They will treat you this way because of my name,** for they do not know the One who sent me. John 15:18-21

Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you. 1 John 3:13

In this you greatly rejoice, though **now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.** 7 These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and **may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.** 1 Peter 1:6-7

trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing **when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.** 1 Peter 1:11

Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" Luke 24:26