

“Disciples Will Suffer Persecution” (lesson #12)

1 Peter 4:12-19

1. Why were Christians able to rejoice in spite of trials (1 Pet 1:3-9; 4:13-14)?

God is our Father.

Jesus is our Lord.

We are born again to a living hope, an incorruptible & undefiled inheritance reserved in heaven, the salvation of the soul.

To partake in Christ’s sufferings will result in our partaking in His glory.

“**Glor**y” – Sum total of what God is, what He says & what He does (Psa 19).

Thomas Gray: “Elegy written in a country churchyard” – at a cemetery near Windsor Castle in England

“The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,
And all that beauty, all that wealth e’er gave.

Awaits like the inevitable hour,
The paths of glory lead but to the grave”

(1 John 2:17)

2. Peter states that Christ suffered & we “should follow in his steps” (1 Pet 2:21). Name 5 things (2:22-24) that we must do in order to follow His example.

- 1) Do no evil
- 2) Speak no lies
- 3) Speak no sharp, harsh or biting words
- 4) Do not lash out in anger
- 5) Commit yourself to God in all the above

3. “For it is better, if the will of God should so will, that ye suffer for doing good than for doing evil.” (1 Pet 3:17)

Why would one suffer for doing good?

Christians do not CREATE problems, as they are oftentimes accused, but they REVEAL truth that exposes problems of a sinful nature (Phil 2:14-16; Eph 5:11; Joseph in Gen 37:5-11 & Gen 40:5-19, Daniel in Dan 6:16, Elijah in 1 Kgs 18:17).

4. Name three characteristics of Christ's sufferings (1 Pet 3:18).

1) **For** the sins of others

2) **As** a just man for unjust men

3) **Put** to death in the flesh

Many suffer for the sins of others, but few will suffer for unjust or unworthy men, & even fewer will give their life for such men.

What other NT verse says precisely the same thing? (Rom 5:6-8)

The phrase “bring us to God” is a technical term meaning “to gain audience in a court”. **Through** His death we:

1) Have access to God (Eph 2:18; 3:12)

2) May come before His throne with boldness (Heb 10:19ff)

3) May have access into His grace & rejoicing in hope (Rom 5:2)

5. What mind must the disciple possess (1 Pet 4:1-6)?

A mind or will to suffer in the flesh as Christ suffered (2 Tim 3:12).

If a vicious criminal stabbed your loved one to death, would you preserve that knife in a glass on your mantle? **No** you would never want to see it again! **The** same ought to be true of our lusts & sins, which caused Jesus to die.

6. Why will the world speak evil of a disciple (1 Pet 4:1-6)?

The disciple will not condone the flagrant sins in the world around him.

7. From the text answer the following:

a. A fiery trial was to come upon Christians (12).

A refining fire (1:7; Job 23:10)

b. We should not suffer as a busy body in other people's matters (15).

(1 Pet 2:20; 1 Thess 4:11; 1 Tim 5:13)

c. We glorify God in wearing the name, Christian (16).

However, a Christian is what a Christian does.

Many are wearing the Name "Christian" who do not truly follow Christ as His disciple; & **many apply the Name "Christian"** to things that have no connection to Christ, because He never authorized His Name to be used in that manner.

In addition, there is no glory in suffering for the Name of Christ while being ashamed of the Name (Mk 8:38; Heb 12:2).

He is not ashamed of us when we are not ashamed of Him (Heb 2:11; 11:16).

d. When written, judgment would begin with the house of God (17).

This refers to a judgment *through trial*.

e. The ungodly & sinner are presented as those who obey not the gospel of God (17-18).

What if someone keeps the whole law except for one part (Jas 2:10)?

APPLICATION:

1. In what ways do Christians suffer “fiery trials” today?

In defense of the truth & in living a righteous life we will face many fiery darts of the adversary.

2. Name two other passages where the name “Christian” is found & relate the context....

Acts 11:26 – The disciples in Antioch of Syria were called Christians first.

Acts 26:28 – King Agrippa was almost persuaded to become a Christian, **or** he was amazed that Paul tried so hard to make him a Christian in the short time they had together.

3. When we seek to restore a fallen brother, are we meddling?

No, we are showing our love for him by seeking to prevent his ruin (Jas 5:19-20; Prov 10:12).

4. What does it mean that the righteous one is “scarcely saved”?

The word “scarcely” means *with difficulty*.

“If the righteous will be recompensed on the earth, How much more the ungodly & the sinner” (Prov 11:31).

Lot & his family, with the exception of his wife, were “scarcely saved” (Gen 19:15-26).

Times of persecution & trial are not times for vengeance; they are times in which we may be able to teach others (the Philippian Jailer Acts 16).