

1 Peter 4:12-19
The Blessing of Suffering for Christ

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Outline of 1 Peter 4:12-5:11

1 Peter 2:11 "Beloved"
1 Peter 2:12 **"God is glorified"**
 Living as Aliens to glorify God
1 Peter 4:11 **"God is glorified"**

1 Peter 4:12 "Beloved"
1 Peter 4:12-19 The blessing of suffering
1 Peter 5:1-5 Exhortations to elders and young
1 Peter 5:6-11 Exhortations and assurance

We Can Rejoice In Our Suffering

1 Peter 4:12-13 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, 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.**

God's Spirit and Promises "Rest" Upon Us

1 Peter 4:14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. (NASB)

1 Peter 4:14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the glory (of the eschatological hope) and the Spirit of God rest upon you. (personal translation)

1 Peter 1:4 ...to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.

We Must Glorify His Name

1 Peter 4:15-16 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.

Judgment Starts With Believers

1 Peter 4:17-19 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? AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER? Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

Application

1. If we rejoice now in our sufferings – it is evidence that we will be those who rejoice at the Lord's return!

1 Peter 4:13 But **rejoice** insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may **also rejoice** and be glad when His glory is revealed.

1. Let Us Rejoice In Our Sufferings

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.

Revelation 19:7 Let us **rejoice** and exult and give Him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come...

Application

2. We can take comfort that our judgment is temporary and for the purpose of refinement while the world's is eternal and punitive!

1 Peter 4:17 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?

2. Our Time For Refining Is Temporary

Malachi 3:1-3 Behold, I send My messenger and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts. "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. "He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi...

2. Our Time For Refining Is Temporary

Malachi 3:5 "Then I will draw near to you for judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers and against the adulterers and against those who swear falsely...
2 Thess 1:5-7a This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering – since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed

Application

3. Are you bearing the name of Christ well?
1 Peter 4:16 if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, he is **not to be** ashamed, but **is to** glorify God in this name.

Luke 9:26 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when He comes in His glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

3. Are you bearing the name of Christ well?

Exodus 20:7 You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 Flee from sexual immorality...Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? **You are not your own, for you were bought with a price.** So glorify God in your body.
