

A Fiery Trial

1 Peter 4:12-19

PROPOSITION: Even in the midst of persecution, more suffering may come, but it can be useful.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Peter wrote to Christians who were being persecuted and warned them that more was coming.
2. Peter gave believers four instructions.

DISCUSSION:

I. Expect your suffering (1 Peter 4:12).

- A. Though suffering is common to all, Christians are different from unbelievers (cf. 2 Cor. 6:14-18).
- B. This is a conflict discussed throughout the Bible (cf. Gen. 4:1-8; 1 John 3:12).
- C. Persecution is not strange. Its absence would be.

II. Exult in your suffering (1 Peter 4:13, 14).

- A. The Christian's suffering means fellowship with Christ.
- B. Our suffering may mean glory in the future (cf. John 16:20-22; Rom. 8:33).
- C. Our suffering glorifies the name of Jesus Christ (cf. John 15:21).

III. Examine your suffering (1 Peter 4:15-18).

- A. If one must suffer, let it be as a Christian, not as a criminal.
- B. Never be ashamed to be a Christian.
- C. A "fiery trial" is nothing compared to the "flaming fire" that awaits the lost (cf. 2 Thes. 1:7-10).

IV. Entrust your suffering (1 Peter 4:19).

- A. To entrust (or commit) is a banking term that means, "to deposit for safekeeping" (cf. 2 Tim. 1:12).
- B. We are valuable to God.
- C. "Be constantly entrusting" is the force of the verb tense, and, therefore, the admonition.
- D. To return good for evil, we must trust God.

CONCLUSION:

1. Cf. John 16:33.
2. For real and lasting peace, commit yourself to God.

--9th Avenue church of Christ
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