

# ***I. How to Think about Suffering***

II. 1 Peter 4:12-19 - NCBC, September 23, 2018

Main Point: **The Christian joyfully hopes in God through all suffering.**

- Not surprised but glad (12-13)
  - Your faith is being purified
  - You share in Christ's suffering & glory
- Not spiteful but blessed (14-15)
  - You have God's Spirit of Glory on you
  - You can overcome evil with good
- Not ashamed but thankful (16)
  - You bear Christ's Name
  - You glorify God by treasuring Him more
- Not spared but saved (17-18)
  - Your suffering now is purifying you
  - Yet you are saved from eternal judgment
- Not estranged but trusting (19)
  - You can trust your faithful Creator
  - Even while you continue doing good

Application: **Expect to suffer even as you keep rejoicing in Christ and doing good.**

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## **Opening Announcements:**

- Ministry Opportunities available for you! Visit <http://www.myncbc.org/church/volunteer-opportunities/page315.html> to learn more!

<<Speak O Lord>>



I appreciate that prayer so much before the preaching of God's Word. For we need God's help to grasp the heights of God's plans for us. Our minds need to be renewed...our unbelief needs to be washed away by unfailing words of power...so that our faith can rise, and our eyes can see God's majestic love and authority!

Please continue your worship now by opening your Bible to **1 Peter chapter 4**. Today we focus on the last paragraph of **chapter 4**, which helpfully summarizes much of what Peter has written so far – teaching us *How to Think about Suffering* as a Christian.



If you don't have a Bible today, simply raise your hand and we'd be delighted to give you one. **1 Peter chapter 4** is on page 1206 in the giveaway Bibles today.

And while you're preparing to read God's Word, just a quick word about our special plans for the next couple of Sundays together.

Next week, Pastor Chad Nightingale from Pekin Bible Church will be preaching to us here, while I go and preach to the congregation there at Pekin Bible Church. Pastor Chad has become a dear friend of mine over the last few years he's been serving Pekin Bible Church, and I'm thrilled to introduce you to his ministry. Our own Mike Hanson is serving Pekin Bible Church part-time with his Biblical Counseling Ministries, and God is glorified when like-minded churches can partner together in prayer and ministry for the sake of God's kingdom in central IL!

The following week, Pastor Jason Alligood from Fellowship Bible Church in Peoria will be here, as I swap pulpits with him and preach there as well. Pastor Jason is also a dear friend and prayer partner to me. You are

going to be so blessed by Jason's preaching!! God is using Jason to build up Christ's church in Peoria right on Sterling near Northwoods Mall...and God is doing a great work through our brother for His glory there!

So as these brothers come to preach God's Word – please get to know them and their families. Encourage them with your New Castle love and hospitality. I really want to encourage you to listen humbly to them, and pray for these men and their church families! It's such a joy to be in partnership with both of these men, and I'm thrilled to introduce you to them in the next couple of weeks.



Now today we want to wrap up **chapter 4** in our study of Peter's first letter to suffering exiles.

Please stand in honor of the public reading of God's Word, as I read **1 Peter 4, verses 12-19** from the **English Standard Translation**:

*<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as*

*you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. <sup>15</sup> But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. <sup>16</sup> Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. <sup>17</sup> For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup> And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" <sup>19</sup> Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.*

These are powerful words of life. You may be seated.

### Let's Pray.

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Peter understands the power of biblical thinking.<sup>1</sup> In **chapter 1 verse 13**, *prepare your minds for action, and be sober-minded...set your hope fully on [future] grace .... In verse 22*, we have purified our souls *by our obedience to the truth*. In **chapter 3 verse 8**, *Finally, all of you, have unity of mind...be single-minded*. Unite your thinking in the mind of Christ. Then in **chapter 4 verse 1**, *arm yourselves with the same way of thinking ...literally go into war with biblical thinking – thinking like Christ Himself*. Again in **verse 7**, since the end of all things is at

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<sup>1</sup> As an interesting side study – consider all the references and exhortations to “think” or “remember” or “recall” or “know” found in 2 Peter alone: 2 Peter 1:2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 20; 2:20, 21; 3:1, 2, 17, 18. Peter clearly understood the priority of a mind renewed with God's Truth!

hand, *be sober-minded*... Your prayers and your love and your stewardship of God's grace is dependent upon your last-day mindset through your present difficulties.

Church – there is a way to think about suffering that will serve the glory of God – and there is a way to think about suffering that will feed despair, selfishness, and cynical apostacy. Peter knows the days are evil, and the times are tough for Christ-followers. He doesn't sugar-coat the difficult reality of living for Christ in these last days. Instead, he seeks to weaponize our thinking for victory. Peter wants us to know the truth, and believe it... since to be forewarned in many ways is to be forearmed.

We understand this, right? I recently had minor surgery on my mouth. And for me – the thought of them taking a graft from the top of my mouth and stitching it to my front gums was very unpleasant. Just the thought of the procedure still turns my stomach a little. After all, pain hurts me!

So how do you think I prepared for the procedure? I asked lots of questions to the doctor. I gathered information from the nurses. I learned what to expect, and what would likely help relieve the pain once I experienced it, etc. Translation – I engaged my mind!

Why did I prepare my thinking in advance? Because to be forewarned is to be forearmed, right! I wanted to go into this unpleasant experience with the right expectations, believing that the right mindset would help minimize unnecessary pain, and give me hope throughout the duration of necessary discomfort and pain.

And if a prepared mind is helpful when facing minor mouth surgery – how much more does the right mindset serve the glory of God when you and your loved ones face fiery persecution in these last days?

In **verses 12-19**, Peter recaps much of what he's already written in this letter. He's going after your mind, Christian. He wants to make sure you are thinking biblically about suffering.

His main point of this paragraph is clear enough,



The Christian joyfully hopes in God through all suffering.

Suffering as a Christian leads to glory and tastes of glory. The Christian's mind and affections are set on things above – not on things of this earth.<sup>2</sup> The flames of fiery trials aren't able to quench hope that's drunk deeply from living water.

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<sup>2</sup> Colossians 3:1ff  
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So let's prayerfully walk through this text to better learn how we should think about our suffering.

First, **verses 12 and 13** teach us the topsy-turvy, counter-intuitive truth that Christians should,



Not be surprised but instead be glad when we suffer as a Christian.

**Verse 12** starts with the vocative, *Beloved* – which is a great reminder of our position in Christ. The only other time Peter addressed these suffering saints by this word is back in **chapter 2 verse 11** – when he urged them into a war against their own selfishness and unbelieving desires.<sup>3</sup>

Christian – no matter how hot your fire or raging your war – never forget that your identity is secure in God's love for you. You are His beloved – the very cherished bride of Christ!<sup>4</sup>

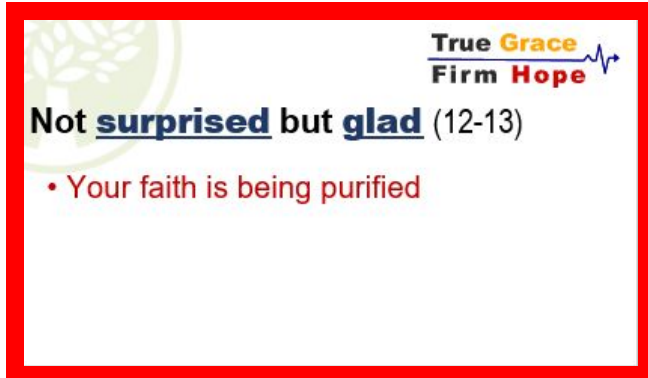
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<sup>3</sup> In 2 Peter, he doesn't use this vocative until chapter 3, and then addresses the readers with this word 4xs: 2 Peter 3:1, 8, 14, 17 (and one reference to our beloved brother Paul in verse 15)

<sup>4</sup> Ephesians 5:25; Revelation 21:2, 9

*So beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed.*

This is how you should think about any kind of suffering – but especially in this context any suffering that comes from being mistreated or insulted by unbelievers:



Know that **Your faith is being purified**

The fire comes to test you **verse 12** says. Your suffering has a Divine purpose – though unseen and mysterious to you – God is sovereignly working behind the scenes so that your suffering tests and reveals the reality of your faith,<sup>5</sup> and burns off its impurities.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Matthew 13:5-6, 20-21; c.f. Job 5:17; Proverbs 3:11-12; Romans 5:3; 2 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Timothy 3:11; James 1:3-12; Hebrews 12:5-11; Revelation 3:19

<sup>6</sup> It is possible Peter is thinking of Malachi 3:1-3 in this context of judgment starting at the household of God in 4:17, etc. C.f. Psalm 66:10; Proverbs 17:3

We saw this description of trials back in **chapter 1 verse 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.

So don't lose your composure or stability when life gets hard. And don't expect your suffering to make sense while you're going through it. It won't make sense! You're not going to be able to see how God is purifying you with the fire when you cringe under its singe...but remember the promise of **chapter 1 verses 8-9** – inexpressible future glory is connected to this dark pain now. You're not alone! **Chapter 5 verse 9** reminds you that *this same kind of suffering is being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.*<sup>7</sup>

So when you don't understand how God is working all of this out for your greater eternal joy,<sup>8</sup> join Job who said,

<sup>7</sup> C.f. 1 Corinthians 10:13; James 1:1-12

<sup>8</sup> Romans 8:28-29



<sup>8</sup> “Behold, I go forward, but **He is not there**, and backward, but **I do not perceive Him**; <sup>9</sup> on the left hand when He is working, **I do not behold Him**; He turns to the right hand, but **I do not see Him**. <sup>10</sup> But He knows the way that I take; **when He has tried me, I shall come out as gold**.

*“Behold, I go forward, but he is not there, and backward, but I do not perceive him; on the left hand when he is working, I do not behold him; he turns to the right hand, but I do not see him. Our soul cries, Lord – what are you doing right now? I don’t understand my suffering...but this I know: **He knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.**”*

You must understand Jesus destined us to fulfill His sufferings on this earth.<sup>9</sup> You must expect persecution.

### Not **surprised** but **glad** (12-13)

- Your faith is being purified
- You share in Christ's suffering & glory

Don't think it strange...but rather rejoice and be glad. For **You share not only in Christ's suffering now but also His glory** to come!

Jesus taught it this way – *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Translation – when you live for this world, and when your treasure is in this world...when you're part of the kingdom of this world... you will never rejoice or be glad when you suffer loss unjustly in this world.

But when your real treasure is Christ – when you value eternal glory more than the momentary afflictions of these last days,<sup>10</sup> then *O how happy are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account*, Jesus says. *Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven...*<sup>11</sup>

There is no greater joy than to be in fellowship with Jesus Christ – both in the fellowship of His sufferings and the power of His resurrection.<sup>12</sup> We must not expect glory and praise and honor now – but we can be so confident of our eternal joy in Christ that we can joyfully understand that our present suffering is storing up for us eternal joy.

So don't fail the fiery test. As the old Hymn testifies,

<sup>10</sup> 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

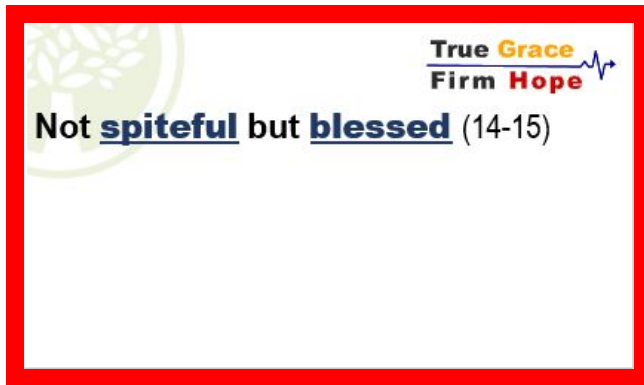
<sup>11</sup> Matthew 5:10-12, c.f. Luke 6:22-23

<sup>12</sup> Philippians 3:10-11

<sup>9</sup> John 15:20; Colossians 1:24; 1 Thessalonians 3:3

*“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.”<sup>13</sup>*

The renewed mind of a Christian in suffering is Not surprised, but glad. And in **verses 14-15**,



Not spiteful but blessed.

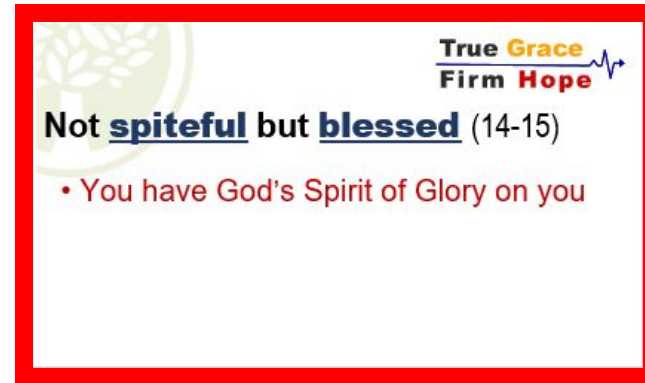
**Verse 14** reads, *If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.* <sup>15</sup> *But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler.*

Do you remember the cause for being insulted and maligned back in **verses 3-4** of this chapter? Your love for Christ changed your behavior and your refusal to join with your unbelieving friends in their debauchery made them feel judged, so they lashed out in hatred against you.

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<sup>13</sup> “How Firm a Foundation, Ye Saints of the Lord”

Christian, ever since God caused you to be born again and awakened your heart to love God - you now carry the name or aroma of Christ.<sup>14</sup> And selfish unbelief always hates grace. So when you are persecuted for your love for Christ, **verse 14** says that *you are blessed*,



For **You have God's Spirit of Glory on you**

Whenever you suffer, don't forget this benefit of your salvation!<sup>15</sup> There are present benefits that will help you endure persecution today. Your reward is not just future. Right now – in the midst of your suffering, God has given you a personal taste of the future glory that is still to come. The very Spirit of God – the Spirit of Glory – the *Shekinah* presence of God that filled the Old Testament tabernacle<sup>16</sup> is now blazing in the midst of you<sup>17</sup> – the people of God who are now the very temple of God in this age!!<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> 2 Corinthians 2:14-16

<sup>15</sup> Psalm 103:1ff

<sup>16</sup> 1 Kings 8:11

<sup>17</sup> Romans 8:9

<sup>18</sup> 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 12:13

The word *rests upon you* literally means brings refreshment, gives relief. You church – are very blessed. No matter what evil befalls you in this present age – God’s Spirit Himself promises to satisfy your soul with the refreshment of the glory that is still future to you – reassuring you that all of this world’s loss will return eternal gain.

All so that you are empowered to,



True Grace  
Firm Hope

**Not spiteful but blessed (14-15)**

- You have God’s Spirit of Glory on you
- You can overcome evil with good

overcome evil with good.

You don’t have to return evil for evil. **Verse 15** goes from the most serious revenge of murder, to the most “acceptable sin” of meddling, or being a busybody.

Peter’s point is simple – make sure you’re not sinning your way into suffering, or trying to sin your way out of suffering.<sup>19</sup> The only way God is glorified in your suffering is when you continue to do good by the power of His indwelling Spirit.

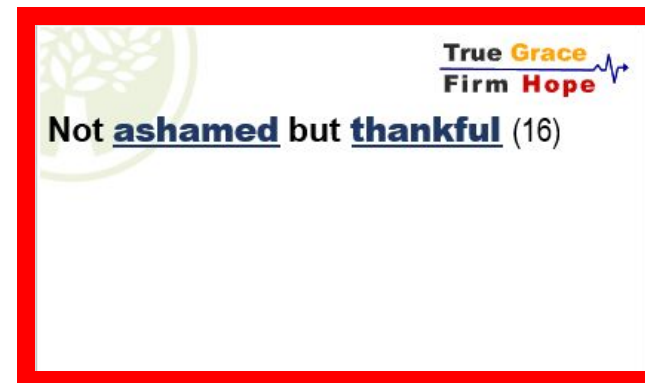
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<sup>19</sup> 1 Peter 2:19-20; 3:16-17

So live above reproach. Not giving way to the angry justification of murder when others harm your loved ones, or stealing when they take away all your provision. After all, how hollow would your faith in your eternal inheritance become if you justified stealing or doing evil or sticking your nose in other people’s business here on this earth. We could have a whole sermon on how busy-bodies rob God of His glory<sup>20</sup> – the word literally includes agitating or making trouble in society. So let’s make sure we are seeking to overcome evil with good – and not ever justified towards spiteful or riotous protests. We are called to proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness!

**Verse 16** sums it up well,

*Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.*



True Grace  
Firm Hope

**Not ashamed but thankful (16)**

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<sup>20</sup> C.f. 1 Thessalonians 4:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12; 1 Timothy 2:1-3; Titus 3:1-5. The word for meddling here also carries the meaning of “agitators” or “trouble-makers in society.”



When it comes to suffering as a Christian, **do Not be ashamed but be thankful (16)**

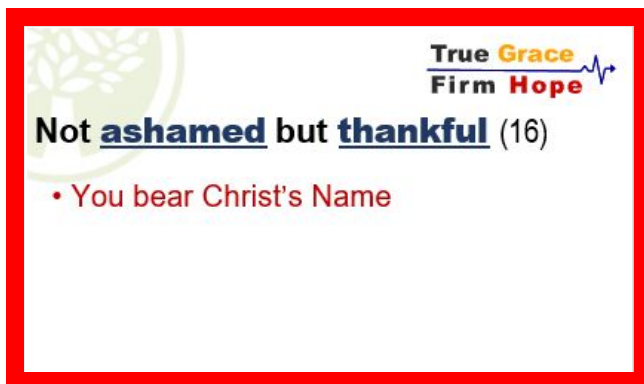
Remember when this letter was written, the label Christian was derogatory! **Acts 11:26 and Acts 26:28** help us to understand this title was a negative slur.

So Peter commands the suffering pilgrims – don't feel shame when people call you names and insult you. But Peter... how am I supposed to change how I feel? The reality is I feel ashamed and embarrassed when others make fun of me.

Ah yes, but child of God go back to **chapter 2 verse 6-9**,

*Whoever believes on the cornerstone of Jesus Christ will not be put to shame! The honor is for you who believe... for you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession...*

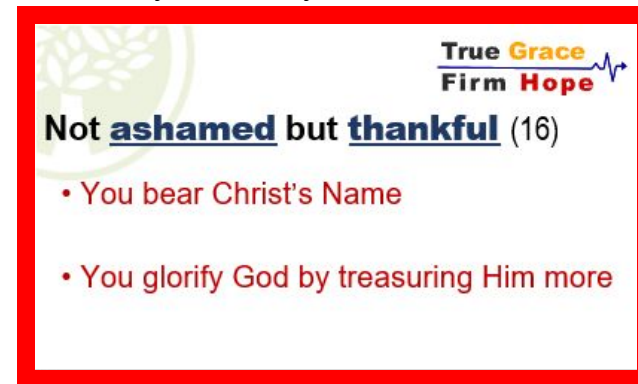
In other words,



**You bear Christ's Name**

And when you pause and think about your profound identity in Christ – your rank in Christ, your inheritance in Christ, your standing as a child of God – instead of being ashamed you will be in awe of such a privileged association!

**Verse 16** says you will glorify God in that name! Let me say it this way,



**You glorify God by treasuring Him more**

You help the holiness of God go public every time you value His approval more than the approval of other people. You show God is more valuable than anything or anyone else on this earth every time you return good for evil. You demonstrate your eternal satisfaction in God every time you rejoice in suffering for His Name's sake – rather than fighting for your rights or trying to prove that others are wrong.

Such sacrificial worship of treasuring God more than all others is only possible for those upon whom the Spirit of glory rests. Have you been born again? The heat of persecution will reveal whether you've truly trusted in

Christ – or whether your self-reliance is using religion to try to establish your own righteousness.<sup>21</sup>

Come home today sinner! Find the supreme treasure your soul was made to worship in the person and work of Jesus Christ! Nothing else is worth living and dying for!

After all, **verses 17-18** are clear that suffering Christians remember they are,



Not spared but saved (17-18)

Look carefully at these two important verses with me ...and notice that **verse 17** starts with the word, “for” or “because.” So then all of **verses 17-18** are giving the reasons or grounds for why we should seek to treasure God more and magnify His glory rather than be ashamed when we suffer as Christians.

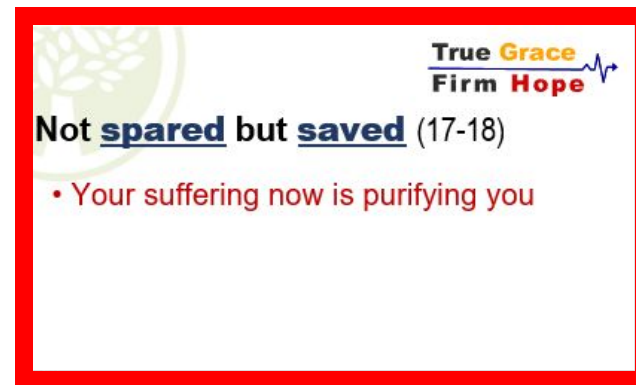
*17 For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 And [then*

<sup>21</sup> Romans 10:3; Matthew 13:21; Mark 4:17; Hosea 6:4

Peter quotes from **Proverbs 11:31**] *“If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”*

**Verse 8** already told us the end of all things is at hand – and now Peter connects God’s present judgment of believers to our suffering as Christians.

In other words, the judgment which begins at the household of God, or which is occurring today among Christians,<sup>22</sup> is a judgment of purifying suffering. A discipline for sanctification – not condemnation.<sup>23</sup>




Your suffering now is purifying you

So don’t miss this ... God Himself is at work in this suffering. Not just your evil enemy. In mysterious ways that you may not be able to see right – God is in charge, and He has good purposes for your pain. God is not trying to destroy you – but give you fullness of life!

<sup>22</sup> 1 Peter 2:5

<sup>23</sup> Hebrews 12:7-11; Romans 8:1; John 5:24




**True Grace  
Firm Hope**

**Not spared but saved (17-18)**

- Your suffering now is purifying you  
But *when we are judged,*  
*we are disciplined* by the Lord  
so that *we will not be condemned*  
along with the world. (1 Cor 11:32)

As **1 Corinthians 11:32** says, *But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.*

So think like this when you suffer Christian. Your suffering now is purifying you,



**True Grace  
Firm Hope**

**Not spared but saved (17-18)**

- Your suffering now is purifying you
- Yet you are saved from eternal judgment

Yet you are saved from eternal judgment

**Verse 18** is clear – your soul will be saved. When it says, *scarcely saved*, Peter is not meaning that the infinite price of Jesus' blood is barely sufficient to redeem

us – rather he is speaking to the difficulty and turmoil that's bound up in the Christian's experience of unjust suffering, and necessary discipline of God through life.

So slow down a bit, and let this sink it. Twice in **verse 17** Peter says that God's judgment begins with the household of God. That's the beloved. Christians. Those who obey the gospel of God. The righteous of **verse 18**. So that means that in sequence, God's judgment will first begin with His own children, and then secondly move to those who do not obey the gospel of God. After God judges the righteous with purifying suffering, He will turn His judgment upon the ungodly and the sinners.

And there's two rhetorical questions here...

*What will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? What will become of the ungodly and the sinner?*

Well, the answers are obvious. The ungodly and the sinner will not be saved. God's judgment will not purify them, but destroy them.

Here's how Paul describes it in **2 Thessalonians 1**,

<sup>5</sup> This is evidence of **the righteous judgment of God**, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, **for which you are also suffering**— <sup>6</sup> since indeed **God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you**, <sup>7</sup> and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, **when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven** with his mighty angels <sup>8</sup> **in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.** <sup>9</sup> **They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, ...**

<sup>5</sup> This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— <sup>6</sup> since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, <sup>7</sup> and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels <sup>8</sup> in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. <sup>9</sup> They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,

Loved ones – this warning is real. If you really think that living for Christ is harder than living for yourself – you’ve lost your mind. Think soberly loved ones. Take a long look at the long-view. All of **verses 17-18** are the motivating grounds for suffering Christian’s not being embarrassed to be publicly known for Christ, and continuing to proclaim the excellencies of God’s glory!

Church – our suffering is a stage upon which the world can see what we treasure most!

And as **verse 19** concludes, we must not ever think ourselves as being forsaken or abandoned by our God.

No matter how painful and distressing our suffering here and now, we know we are,

True Grace  
Firm Hope  
Not estranged but trusting (19)

Not estranged but we are trusting in a good God.

Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

True Grace  
Firm Hope  
Not estranged but trusting (19)

- You can trust your faithful Creator

You can trust your faithful Creator

Just like Jesus cried on the cross – “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!”<sup>24</sup> ...Jesus’ word “commit” is the same Greek word for “entrust” here. It literally means to deposit for safe keeping.

Child of God – deposit your soul securely into the hands of your Creator – the Sovereign all-powerful God who made you for His own joy and pleasure. The all-powerful King of Glory who never breaks His promises – He is faithful! You can trust God to do right church.



**Not estranged but trusting** (19)

- You can trust your faithful Creator
- Even while you continue doing good

Even while you continue doing good


Until we take our last breath on this earth, may we be a people who are consumed with proclaiming the excellencies of our great God – by praying, and loving, and opening up our hearts and our homes to others, and by sacrificially investing God’s grace into others – all so that others can see our good deeds, and praise our God who is in heaven.

This is how you think like a Christian when you suffer.

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<sup>24</sup> Luke 23:46

**Main Point**



**The Christian  
joyfully hopes in God  
through all suffering.**

The Christian joyfully hopes in God through all suffering.

So then today – in the midst of your suffering, make sure you’re thinking right. You should

**Application**



**Expect to suffer  
even as you keep rejoicing  
in Christ and doing good.**

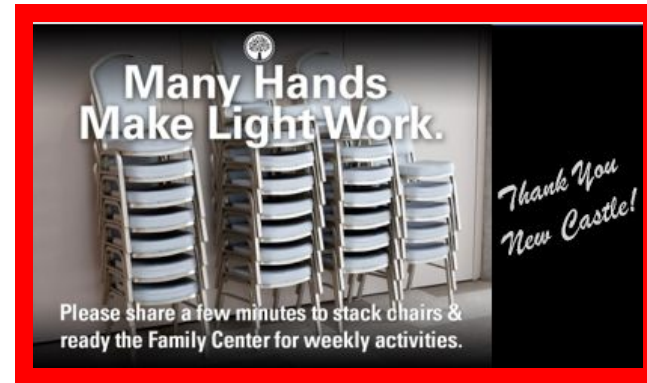
Expect to suffer even as you keep rejoicing in Christ and doing good.

This world is not our home. Our greatest treasure is in the kingdom of heaven – not the kingdom of this world. Therefore, may our suffering continue to witness to this reality as we keep rejoicing in the privilege of our union



with Christ, and make Him known through all our speaking and our serving!

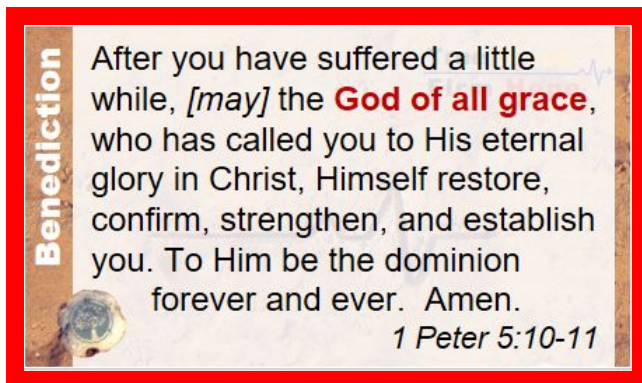
*confirm, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 5:10-11*



Let's pray.

<<He Will Hold Me Fast>>

Let's pray our benediction together as we dismiss.



*And after you have suffered a little while, [may] the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, himself restore,*

### **Recommended Resources on How to Think about Suffering:**

- Psalm 31
- Proverbs 11:31
- Jeremiah 25:29
- Ezekiel 9:4-6
- Malachi 3:1-3
- Matthew 5:11-12
- Luke 2:34; 16:19-31
- John 3:17; 5:24; 9:39; 15:20
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-11; 4:7-18; 6:4-11; 7:5; 11:23-33; 12:7-10
- Philippians 1:29
- 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12
- 2 Thessalonians 1:5-9; 3:11-12
- Hebrews 12:7-8

III.

- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/is-persecution-coming-for-christians>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/suffer-for-the-joy-set-before-you>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/mind-your-own-business>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/do-you-suffer-because-of-your-sin>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/god-is-working-in-your-suffering>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/christian-your-suffering-is-not-eternal>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/saved-through-the-fire-of-suffering>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/how-will-christians-be-judged>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/christians-never-need-revenge>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/six-parts-of-a-christian-worldview>

IV.

- *Suffering*, Paul Tripp

### **Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions**

*(This week's questions are taken from Desiring God)*

V.

1. Read 1 Peter 4:12–19 and number all of the commands/expectations that Peter gives us. Which of these seems most applicable to you in this season of life?

VI.

2. Read 1 Peter 4:14. What does it look like to experience the Spirit of glory?

VII.

3. Read 1 Peter 4:16; 1 Thessalonians 4:11–12; 2 Thessalonians 3:11–12. Does God call Christians to mind their own business? In what cases might this not apply?

VIII.

4. Read 1 Peter 4:16. Who are you hide your faith from the most? Why do you hide it from them specifically? Pray about ways to be more unashamed with this person moving forward.

IX.

5. 1 Peter 4:17–18 calls us to consider the fate of nonbelievers who die in unbelief. Answer the two rhetorical questions in verses 17 and 18.

X.

6. God calls us to do good to those who hurt us. How does this relate to trusting God (1 Peter 4:19)? How did the two connect for Jesus (1 Peter 2:23)? If we adopt this as a way of life, aren't we allowing others to take advantage of us? Why or why not?