

## **1 Peter 4:12-19 – Bliss: Be Joyful In Suffering?**

### **Introduction:**

1. 2010: The Coptic Christians
2. 202 A.D.: Vibia Perpetua and Felicity
3. 30 A.D.: Peter and the Apostles
4. God is Sovereign Over All of Our Sufferings

### **The Main Idea of 1Peter 4:12-19**

**Christians magnify God by unashamedly & joyfully entrusting their souls to Him as He tests them through the sanctifying fires of suffering, knowing He is faithful, powerful, and able to fulfill All His promises.**

### **Don't Be Surprised By Suffering, Rejoice! (vv 12-14)**

1. Will You have the Strength to Stand for Christ?
2. *Beloved*: Affectionate Empathy (**1 Pet 2:11**)
  - a. War for the Soul is Within and Without
3. The Fiery Trial is Painful (**1 Pet 1:6-7**)
4. The Fiery Trial is Normal (**1 Pet 5:9; cf. 1 Cor 10:13**)
5. You Are Strange & Surprising to the World (**1 Pet 4:4**)
6. The Fiery Trial Can Come in the Form of Persecution
  - a. **1 Peter 4:4 & 14a**
7. The Fiery Trial is a Share in Christ's Sufferings (**Jn 15**)
  - a. The Disciple of Christ will Suffer
8. The Fiery Trial is a Test/Trial
  - a. All Suffering is Part of God's Plan – His Design
9. The Fiery Trial Should Cause Us to Rejoice
  - a. God is Sovereign, which Means He Directs it
  - b. God is Good, which Means we can Rejoice in it
  - c. We Share in Christ's Sufferings (**Col 1:24**)
    - i. The Purpose of Rejoicing Now: You Can Rejoice w/ Gladness at Jesus' Second Coming
    - ii. God loves You and His Son to leave Us in Sin
10. Assurance: Will You Stand in the Fiery Trial? Yes
  - a. The Holy Spirit Empowers and Encourages You
  - b. Rejoicing in Suffering = Fruit of New Birth

### **Don't Be The Source Of Suffering, Do Good! (vv 15, 19)**

1. Is this more than just a list of "don'ts"?
2. God prefers injustice done to you over you committing injustice (Enduring Evil, Rather than committing Evil)
3. God prefers you doing good OVER you suffering

4. Why this List of Sins and Not Others?
  - a. Murder – Imagine a loved one is killed for Christ
  - b. Thief – Imagine your property is plundered
  - c. Evil-doing – Imagine various evils done to you
  - d. Would You Want Revenge?
  - e. Meddler – Why is vice this combined with this lot?
    - i. End of all things is at hand, Exiles keep working (**1 Ths 4:11-12, 2 Ths 3:11-12, 1 Pt 1:1, 2:11**)
    - ii. End of all things is at hand, Exiles Shape & Transform World by the Gospel of Jesus Christ
5. Christians Do Good to Others – Do not repay evil!

### **Don't Be Shamed In Suffering, Glorify God! (v 16)**

1. Parallel Passage: **1 Pet 2:6-9**
2. The World Shames You... For You Belong To God!
3. How do you Rid Yourself of Shame?
4. Know Identity: Realize Who You Are In Christ Jesus!
  - a. Called Christian (derogatory term in 1<sup>st</sup> Century)
  - b. Royal Priesthood, Treasure to God (**1 Pet 2**)
5. Worship: Glorify God – Your Faith shows Unashamed Hope in Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior

### **Don't Be Suspicious About Suffering, God Purifies! (v 17-18)**

1. What is the Household of God? (**1 Pet 2:5**) Church
2. What does God use to Judge the Church? Fiery Trials
3. Is there a Distinction in the way God judges the world?
4. Why Christians are Judged: (**1 Pet 1:6-7**)
  - a. Our Pain is NOT Punitive – It's Not God's Wrath
  - b. Our Pain IS Purifying – God's Sanctifying Love
  - c. God Sanctifies Us for Himself by His Love for Us
5. What does it Mean Judgment Begins Here? (**Jn 9:39**)
  - a. Jesus is the Dividing Line (**See Luke 2:34; 5:24**)
  - b. God will use His enemies as Instruments for His Will, in order to Purify His People (**see 1 Cor 12**)
6. God's Wrath: What will become of the Ungodly? (**Proverbs 11:31**) The Ungodly Will Be Condemned

### **Don't Be Subdued By Suffering, Trust God! (v 19)**

1. God Decides If You will Suffer AND He has a Way for you to Suffer in a Godly Manner (**1 Pet 3:17, 4:15**)
2. Christ our Example: *Father, into your hands* (**Lk 23:46**)
3. Trust God who is faithful & powerful to fulfill ALL His Promises to You (**1 Pet 3:12, 4:11, 5:10-11**)