

First Peter

1 Pet. 4:12-19

1 Pet. 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy *are ye*; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or *as a thief*, or *as an evildoer*, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

16 Yet if *any man* suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

17 For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if *it first begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?

18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls *to him* in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

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1. A guaranteed experience, 4:12

1 Pet. 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

Jas. 1:2 My brethren, **count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;**

3 Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

4 But let patience have *her* perfect work, that **ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.**

Dan. 3:16 **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we *are* not careful to answer thee in this matter.

17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from **the burning fiery furnace**, and he will deliver *us* out of thine hand, O king.

18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. ...

25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of **the fourth is like the Son of God**.

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, *and* spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come *hither*. Then **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire**.

27 And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies **the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them**.

2. A gladdening experience, 4:13

1 Pet. 4:13 But **rejoice**, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, **when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.**

- a. The partnership, 4:13a “But rejoice, inasmuch as **ye are partakers** of Christ's sufferings...”
- b. The prospect, 4:13b “...that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.”

1 Pet. 1:6 Wherein ye **greatly rejoice**, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

7 That **the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth**, though it be **tried with fire**, might be found unto **praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: ...**

10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace *that should come* unto you:

11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified **beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.**

1 Pet. 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because **Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:**

Acts 5:41 And they departed from the presence of the council, **rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.**

2 Cor. 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more **exceeding and eternal weight of glory;**

18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but **at the things which are not seen:** for the things which are seen *are* temporal; **but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.**

3. A glorifying experience, 4:14

a. The reproach of the godless declared, 4:14a “If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, **happy are ye**; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you...”

Original Word: ὀνειδίζω

Transliteration: oneidizó

Definition: I reproach, revile, upbraid.

oneidízō (from a primitive root meaning "to upbraid, revile, like in showing one's teeth," K. Wuest) – properly, to *disgrace (insult)*, reproach; mock (curse); insult, *cast blame* (create shame) – viewing someone (something) as *culpably guilty* and therefore *deserving* punishment. This can be based on *fact* (Mt 11:20), or *incorrect assumptions* (Mt 5:11).

<http://biblehub.com/greek/3679.htm>

Mt. 5:11 Blessed are ye, when *men* shall **revile** you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for **great is your reward in heaven**: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Mt. 27:44 The thieves also, which were crucified with him, **cast the same in his teeth**.

Luke 6:22 Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you *from their company*, and shall **reproach you**, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.

1 Tim. 4:10 For therefore we both labour and **suffer reproach**, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

b. The reflection of the glory demonstrated, 4:14b “...on their part he is evil spoken of, but **on your part he is glorified.**”

1 Pet. 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the **Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works**, which they shall behold, **glorify God in the day of visitation.**

1 Pet. 3:16 Having a good conscience; that, **whereas they speak evil of you**, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

1 Pet. 4:5 Who shall **give account to him** that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

G. Suffering examined, 4:15-19

1. Is there a specific reason for it? 4:15-16

a. Suffering as a result of culpable activity, 4:15

1 Pet. 4:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or *as a thief*, or *as an evildoer*, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

(1) As a murderer, 4:15a “But let none of you suffer as a murderer...”

(2) As a miscreant, 4:15b “...or as a thief...”

(3) As a malcontent, 4:15c “...or as an evildoer...”

(4) As a meddler, 4:15d “...or as a busybody in other men's matters.”

b. Suffering as a result of Christian activity, 4:16

1 Pet. 4:16 Yet if *any man suffer* **as a Christian**, let him not be ashamed; but **let him glorify God on this behalf.**

(See Acts 11:26, 26:28)

Acts 5:41 And they departed from the presence of the council, **rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.**

2. Is there a special reason for it? 4:17-18

a. Suffering designed to cleanse the church, 4:17a “For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of God...”

Mal. 3:2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he *is* like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:

3 And he shall sit *as* a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

b. Suffering designed to warn the world, 4:17b-18

(1) The church taught by way of example, 4:17b

“...and if *it* first *begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?”

(2) The church taught by way of extension, 4:18

1 Pet. 4: 18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

Prov. 11:31 Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.

3. Is there a spiritual reason for it? 4:19

a. Undaunted commitment, 4:19a “Wherefore let them that suffer...”

b. Undoubting confidence, 4:19b-d

(1) In God’s complete dependability, 4:19b
“...according to the will of God...”

(2) In God’s creative activity, 4:19c-d

(a) As to His present purpose, 4:19c “...commit the keeping of their souls *to him* in well doing...”

(b) As to His preeminent power, 4:19d
“...as unto a faithful Creator.”

Summary

Peter brought together four reasons for suffering in this section.

- First, God allows us to suffer to demonstrate our character: “suffering for righteousness’ sake” (v. 12, 3:14,17).

1 Pet. 3:14 But and if ye **suffer for righteousness’ sake**, happy *are ye*: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; ...

17 For *it is* better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

- Second, those who suffer “in the flesh” who identify themselves with Jesus Christ will share in the sufferings of our Savior, (v. 13; cf. Phil. 3:10).

1 Pet. 4:1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath **suffered for us in the flesh**, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin

1 Pet. 4:13 But **rejoice**, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, **when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.**

Phil. 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and **the fellowship of his sufferings**, being made conformable unto his death;

Gal. 6:17 From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

- Third, our sufferings will be an occasion of God blessing us (v. 14).

1 Pet. 4:14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy *are ye*; **for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you**: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

- In Fourth, our suffering will glorify God (v. 16).

1 Pet. 4:16 Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but **let him glorify God** on this behalf.

Conclusion

2 Tim. 3:12 Yea, and **all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.**

2 Cor. 12:9 And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee:** for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for **when I am weak, then am I strong.**