

Intro:

XXIII. Fiery Trials

A. Expect Suffering - vs 12

1. Beloved - 2:11

a. *agapetos* - beloved:--(dearly, well) beloved, dear.

b. a common Pastoral word conveying tenderness, compassion, affection and care

c. a reminder in the midst of suffering unjustly that God cares

2. do not think it strange

a. *xenizo* - to be surprised, shocked, be (make, appear) strange, entertain, lodge, (think it) strange.

b. believers should never be surprised by persecution (note point 5, strange thing)

3. concerning the fiery trial - 1Co 3:13; 1Pe 1:7

a. *purosis* - ignition, smelting (calamity as a test):--burning, trial.

b. portrays figuratively the painful experience of persecution

c. also used of a furnace melting down metal to purge it of impurities - Mal 3:1-3

4. which is to try you,

a. the purpose is to prove the genuineness of their faith - Job 23:10; Ro 5:3

b. suffering for righteousness not only refines, but reveals true faith

i. **Mt 13:5-6**

ii. **Mt 13:20-21**

5. as though some strange thing happened to you;

a. *sumbaino* - to walk (transpire) together, concur (take place):--be(-fall), happen (unto).

b. these things do not happen by chance, they are inevitable

i. the message of the Gospel is offensive

ii. For one truly born again, their life reflects the Gospel and therefore is offensive - 1 Pe 3:15

B. Exult In Suffering - vs 13-14

1. but rejoice

a. to the degree that we suffer unjustly as Christ did, we can and should rejoice knowing the truth about suffering - **Mt 5:10-12**

b. a sentiment that can't be understood by those who have no hope

2. to the extent

a. *katho* - according to which thing, precisely as, in proportion as:--according to that, (inasmuch) as.

b. a Christians eternal reward is proportionate to their earthly suffering - Ro 8:18; 2 Co 4:16-18; Heb 11:26; 2 Jo 8; Rev 2:10

3. that you partake of Christ's sufferings,

a. refers to the believer experiencing the same kind of treatment as Christ did

b. **Php 3:10**

c. **2Co 4:8-11**

4. that when His glory is revealed,

a. referring to Christ's return - Lk 17:30

b. referring to the glory that the Lord resumed after His ascension that has not yet been revealed on earth - Mt 24:30

i. the transfiguration gave Peter, James, and John a glimpse of this glory

ii. Mt 17:1-2; Mk 9:2-3; 2 Pe 1:16-18

5. you may also be glad with exceeding joy.
  - a. 2nd use of *chairo* (rejoice, joy) modified by exceeding refers to rapturous joy
  - b. remembering that like rewards, to the extent that we suffer, we will also share in His glory
6. If you are reproached - to defame, rail at, chide, taunt:--cast in teeth, (suffer) reproach, revile, upbraid.
7. for the name of Christ,
  - a. reference vs 15-18
  - b. as our message and lives shine as lights in the world, their darkness is revealed and they will hate you for it - **Phil 2:14-16; Jo 3:19-21**
8. blessed are you,
  - a. for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you
    - i. the grace that He gives is proof that He is there - Ro 8:9; 1 Co 6:19-20
    - ii. Glory is His nature - Shekinah - Ex 24:16-17; 34:5-8; 40:34-38; Hab 3:3-4
    - iii. Rests - *anapauo* - to repose (be exempt), remain; **to refresh**:--take ease, (give, take) rest. - Ac 6:15; 7:55-56
  - b. On their part He is blasphemed, but **on your part** He is glorified
    - i. Notice, it is not personal against you, it is against Him
    - ii. the 2nd reason you are blessed, you have fulfilled your duty, desire

#### C. Evaluate Suffering - vs 15-18

1. What type of suffering are you experiencing?
  - a. But let none of you suffer as
    - i. a murderer, a thief, an evildoer,
    - ii. as a busybody in other people's matters - *allotriepiskopos* - overseeing others' affairs, a meddler - 1 Th 4:11; 2 Th 3:11-12; 1Ti 5:13; 1Pe 2:20
  - b. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, - referring back to vs 14
    - i. let him not be ashamed,
    - ii. but let him glorify God in this matter. - Ac 5:41
2. For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God;
  - a. time - *kairos* - designates a decisive crucial moment
  - b. *krima* - refers to judicial process that renders a decision
  - c. divine judgment on believers is the decision God renders on their sin
    - i. includes chastening that leads to cleansing - **1 Co 11:32**
    - ii. Not condemnation - Ro 8:1
  - d. the comparative question
    - i. and if it begins with us first, - suffering for the purpose of purification
    - ii. what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? - Rev 20:14-15
  - e. "If the righteous one is scarcely saved,
    - i. *molis* - with difficulty:--hardly, scarce(-ly), + with much work.
    - ii. The difficulty to bring one to final salvation through the fires of unjust suffering, divine purging, and God ordained discipline - **Pr 11:31**
  - f. Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?" - **2 Th 1:5-9**

#### D. Entrust Suffering to God - vs 19

1. Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God - as described above
2. commit their souls to Him - Ps 31:5; Lu 23:46; 2Ti 1:12
  - a. *paratithemi* - to place alongside, present (food, truth); to deposit (as a trust or for protection):--allege, commend, commit (the keeping of), put forth, set before.
  - b. in doing good, what is right - able to entrust b/c He only does Good
  - c. Why - because He is a faithful Creator - only here in the NT - **Ps 31**