

Grieved by Various Trials

1 Peter 1:6-7

Series: Exiles in this World

1. Verse 6 – In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,
 - a. In this you rejoice...
 - i. In your election
 1. Foreknowledge of the Father
 2. Sanctification of the Spirit
 3. Obedience to Jesus Christ
 - a. ...and for sprinkling with his blood.
 - ii. In our new birth effectuated by the great mercy of God
 1. The new birth brings a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
 - iii. Inheritance that is
 1. Imperishable,
 2. undefiled
 3. Unfading
 4. Kept in heaven for us
 - iv. We are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
 - b. ...though now for a little while
 - i. Although we wait for the final future of our sanctification—our glorification—it is necessary that we live in this world today.
 - ii. Today we suffer – we are plagued by trials and tribulations. We are overwhelmed by the evil present in our world. Today we see our frailty, and we battle the war against our flesh.
 - iii. This present condition, our present wanderings are but “for a little while.”
 1. Do not lose hope; you are not going to go through the things you are going through forever. Morning is coming, and our hope is in the fact that we are elect exiles. This world is not our home.
 2. **2 Corinthians 4:16-18** So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. (17) For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, (18) as we look not to the things

that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

3. **Romans 8:18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

c. ...if necessary

i. Why would trials and persecution be necessary?

1. For the betterment of others

a. Jesus on the cross

b. Disciples suffered in order to bring the Gospel

i. Paul at Philippi

2. To shape us – Make us ready for heaven

a. **Romans 8:31** What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

b. **2 Corinthians 12:7** So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.

3. To turn us to Christ – man on the bed brought to Jesus

4. For the spread of the gospel – Saul and the early church

a. The validity of the message is found in the servants willing to suffer.

5. **John 16:33** I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

a. A servant is not greater than his master.

d. ...you have been grieved

i. God knows and recognizes our sorrow and suffering

e. ...by various trials

i. More than one.

2. Verse 7 – 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.

a. So that the tested genuineness of your faith...

i. Our faith is strengthened through the very suffering that we endure. God keeps us for glory by faith; therefore our faith must continue to the end of our life-long pilgrimage.

1. Because of this, our faith must be purified and stress-tested.
 - b. Interruption – more precious than gold that perishes thou fire tests it
 - i. Like gold, it must pass through the furnace. Trials are no surprise or reason to doubt God’s faithfulness.
 - ii. We should rejoice in our trials.
 - iii. God sends trials to strengthen our trust in him so that our faith will not fail.
 - iv. Trials burn away self-confidence and drive us to our Savior.
 - v. Remember, fire does not destroy gold but removes combustible impurities.
 - vi. Even gold will one day perish, but our faith is infinitely more precious.
 - c. ...may be found to result in the praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
 - i. Jesus brings, at the end of this present existence, more than just an end to suffering, he brings his reward with him.
3. Benediction –
- a. **Revelation 22:12-13** “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. (13) I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”