

Assurance in the Fire (1 Peter 4:12-19)
GCC, 2/17/19, Morning Worship

Introduction

- A. Looking for assurance in all the wrong places?
 - B. The assurance of God's presence and power is seen just as clearly in the midst of the suffering as it is in the end or softening of the suffering
 - C. The doubting dilemma of Asia Minor Christians (1 Peter 1:8)
 - D. Main Idea: *In the refining fires of suffering, we see our identity, God's presence, and our ground for rejoicing.*
- I. Peter's Use Old Testament Motifs to Answer the Question of Abandonment
- A. Fire in God's House! Judgment Begins at the Temple and Moves Out (Mal 3:1–3 and 4:1)
 - B. Peter harnesses the same motif to comfort NT Christians (1 Peter 4:12 and 17)
 - 1. Judgment of believers is toward a different end than judgment of unbelievers
 - C. How did God manifest His "resting upon" the tabernacle in the Old Covenant?
 - 1. Fiery pillar of Glory (Exod 40:34–38)
 - 2. Glory-Cloud as image of the Holy Spirit
 - 3. The glory-cloud among Solomon (1 Kgs 8:10–11).
 - 4. Departing of the glory-cloud (Ezek 10:4, 18–19; 11:23)
 - 5. Promise of greater glory in the "latter" temple (Hag 2:9)
 - 6. Holy Spirit rests upon Jesus as true temple (Jn 1:1, 14; Matt 3:16)
 - 7. The Glory-cloud of fire rests upon the new temple of God (Acts 2:3)
 - D. Insults as evidence that the Spirit of Glory rests upon you (1 Peter 4:14)
- II. The Response of Believers to Suffering: Not Surprise but Rejoicing
- A. Rejoice because you are a partaker in Christ's suffering and in the glory that is to be revealed (vv. 13a and 16).
 - B. Entrust yourself to a faithful creator while doing good (v. 19)
- III. A Sobering Word to Unbelievers (4:17–18)

Questions for Application:

1. Do I experience suffering for naming the name of Christ?
2. If not, what does that say about my witness?
3. Do I ever feel like God has abandoned me in the midst of suffering for His name?
4. How does it comfort me to know that I am a living stone in the spiritual house of God over which the Spirit of God rests?
5. How can I realistically "rejoice" when I suffer for being a Christian? (1 Peter 4:13)
6. How has God "refined" me through a painful experience of suffering for Christ's sake?