

## LIVING AS EXILES

WORDS OF GRACE FOR TROUBLED TIMES



SHARING IN  
CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS

1 PETER 4:12-19

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### Introduction

- Perhaps we could come away from last week's sermon assuming that Christian living means complete disengagement, keeping our mouth shut under all circumstances, and living in a bubble of personal comfort and peace with the church
- However, Peter knows of Jesus' statement that we are salt and light in the world, not to be contained, and not to be put under a basket hidden, but spreading and shining light
- Peter tells us that living as disciples also means our engaging with the world in such a way that will, in fact, bring suffering - and this is the will of God

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### Don't Be Surprised, But Rejoice (12-14)

Beloved, *do not be surprised* at the fiery trial when it comes upon you *to test you*, as though something *strange* were happening to you.

But *rejoice* insofar as you *share Christ's sufferings*, that you may also rejoice and be glad *when his glory is revealed*.

If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are *blessed*, because the Spirit of glory and of God *rests* upon you.

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## Suffering for the Right Reason (15-16)

But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler.

Yet if anyone suffers *as a Christian*, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

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## Starting in the Right Place (17-18)

For it is time for judgment (i.e. testing) to begin at the household of God; and if it begins *with us*, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

And "If the righteous is ~~secretly~~ [with difficulty, not easily] saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"  
(Proverbs 11:31)

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## Trust God, Do Good, Suffer Well (19)

Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will *entrust their souls* to a faithful Creator *while* doing good.

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**Response**

- Suffering is baked in to, not a side condiment, to living as a faithful Christian
- The importance of rightly discerning the difference between suffering for His Name and other reasons (i.e. not all suffering of the Christian is Christian suffering)
- This kind of suffering is, when embraced and rejoiced in, a sharing in the fellowship of Christ's suffering
- This has the potential to deepens one's relationship with Jesus and becoming more like Him (Philippians 3:10)
- The Christ pattern - sufferings first, then glory - 1:11

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**Prayer**

Lord Jesus, help us to live well for Your Name  
*so that we can rejoice, and not be surprised  
 by sufferings to come.*

As we do so, may the hope of glory be our desire,  
*and fellowship with You be our experience.*

Judgement and testing begins with ourselves  
*but as we believe this is necessary  
 so too we believe that salvation and glory is to come  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

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