

“HAPPY” NEW YEAR!

I Peter 4:12-13

Last week: see the power of the imperishable Word to change your life in new ways in 2006.

This week: that does not necessarily mean this year will be easier.

Suffering is to be *expected*. But that is okay. It still can be a *more* joyful year.

I. Do NOT be surprised: v12

At painful trials, as if they should not be expected

Reasons for trials this year:

A. _____ bring it on _____ ! (2:20; 3:17; 4:15-16 [meddler!])

Do not be too quick to think you are suffering persecution when people are angry at you

B. You are _____ in the sufferings of _____ (v13)

You are identified with Him, Whom the world hates
(Jn 15:18-21)

Pattern: suffering here → glory after (1:11)

You follow in His steps of suffering as His disciple (2:21-3)

If this is true, you are aware that the people are reacting to Him more than you. Especially if you sharing the Word of 1:24-25, which the world hates (see last week)

C. Expect to suffer simply for doing what is right in a world that loves _____ (3:13-17). Also remember last week: 1:14-15, 22.

You belie the excuse, “But *everybody* does it!”

D. Possible direct or indirect _____ (5:8-10)

E. Its _____ effect: it clarifies your _____ (4:1)

F. Also an opportunity to show your _____ for _____
(1:6-9)

So do not be surprised at difficult times this year. Nothing “strange”!

II. DO REJOICE: v13

For you will be overjoyed when His glory is revealed.

A. _____ more precious

B. Your reward more _____ (cf. Matt 5:11-12)

C. Jesus more _____

The first glimpse of Him in Glory, that never wears off, but only brightens and deepens thru the Ages.

“Was He worth it?” will be more ridiculous than trading your marbles for diamonds.