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Joyful Suffering

1 Peter 4:12-19
 April 9, 2017

I. Expect Suffering as a Part of God’s Productive Providence (v. 12)

- A. Because God _____ so (Gen. 50:20; Rom. 8:28-29)
- B. Because trials flesh out your _____ (James 1:2-4)
- C. Because it is one of many ways that God chooses to _____ his children (Matt. 5:11-12)

II. Exult in Suffering with Constant Joy (vv. 13-14)

- A. You _____ in Christ’s suffering when you live like Christ (v. 13)
- B. You _____ the power of the Spirit when you suffer like Christ (v. 14)

III. Evaluate Suffering to Make Sure it is Not Your Fault (vv. 15-18)

- A. Those sins which are against God’s law and _____ law (v. 15a)
- B. Those sins which are against _____ law only (v. 15b)

- C. There is no _____ in suffering as a Christian (v. 16)
- D. There is a type of _____ on the household of God (v. 17)
- E. There is a type of judgment on the _____ sinner (v. 18)

IV. Entrust Suffering to God who is a Faithful Creator (v. 19)

- A. God may deliver you _____ the fire (2 Kings 19:14-16, 19, 35-36)
- B. God may deliver you _____ the fire (Dan. 3:16-30)
- C. God may deliver you _____ the fire (Acts 7:54-60)

TAKE HOME

- Are you _____ to rejoice as you see suffering as part of God’s plan for your life?
- Is most of the _____ in your life due to your own sin or because you are living for Christ?
- Do you _____ God that He is bringing out the best result for His glory and your good?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a Small Group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please call the church office at (661) 259-2913.

1. Discuss what is meant by the statement, “Experience is the hardest teacher. It gives the test first and then the lesson.” Give some practical examples in your life.

2. Read 1 Peter 4:12. Are you sometimes surprised when fiery trials come into your life? Why? How can Gen. 50:20; Rom. 8:28-29; James 1:2-4; and Matt. 5:11-12 help you with this?

3. Read 1 Peter 4:13-14. When is it that you are really sharing in Christ’s sufferings? How are we to rejoice in this? According to v. 14, who rests upon you during this time? How does that make you feel?

4. Read 1 Peter 4:15-6. What is the difference in suffering as a Christian and in suffering as a sinner? Which of these two types of suffering do you face more often?

5. Read 1 Peter 4:17-18. What does it mean “it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God?” What does verse 18 mean?

6. Read 1 Peter 4:19. Which one of the cross references or sub-points grabbed your attention the most? Why? How will considering the three ways that God may choose to deliver us help you in future suffering?

7. Read the take home questions. Which one challenges you or encourages you the most? How will this passage help you to actually rejoice in your suffering?

“Suffering is unbearable if you aren’t certain that God is for you and with you.”

- Tim Keller, *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering*