

1 Peter 4:12-19: "Suffering of Christ & Christians in Sanctified Living for the Glory of God"

- I. **1:1-12: Gospel Indications:** Foundation: What true grace has done for us
- II. **1:13-5:11: The Gospel Imperatives: What true grace does in and through us**
 - A. **1:13-2:3:** God-focused Piety: God-like Holiness; Fear of Father; Born-again Love
 - B. **2:4-10:** Privileges & Responsibilities of Believers as God's New Covenant Israel: Temple & Priesthood
 - C. **2:11-3:7:** The Grace of Christian Submission: Civil, Domestic, Marital
 - D. **[3:8-5:11] The Grace of Christian Sanctity, Suffering and Service**
 1. **[3:8-12] Sanctity:** Do God's will in relationships w/God's people & "enemy" outsiders
 2. **[3:13-22] Suffering** for the sake of righteousness
 3. **[4:1-19] Sanctity in Suffering and Serving**
 - a. **[4:1-6]** The SOURCE of Union w/ Christ in Sanctified Living for God's Glory
 - b. **[4:7-11]** The SPECIFIC Fruit of Christ's Spirit in Sanctified Living for God's Glory: Praying, Loving, Serving
 - c. **[4:12-19] The SUFFERING of Christ/Christians in Sanctified Living for God's Glory**
 - 1) **[12-16]** Christians should EXPECT to suffer for Christ's sake
 - a) **[12-14]** Do NOT be surprised at suffering, but be rejoicing as blessed ones
 - i) **[12]** *Don't be surprised at the fiery ordeal coming on you as strange thing a) why the ordeal? which comes upon you for your testing*
 - This fire is not punitive, but purgative = to refine (cf. **1:7, tested by fire**)
 - b) for demonstrating the genuineness of one's faith (**1:6-7; cp. Mt 13:20-21**)
 - c) for promoting spiritual growth (**Hebr 12:10b, 11b**)
 - ii) **[13]** *keep rejoicing to degree you share [koinonia] Christ's sufferings*
a) this joy is but a prelude to even greater joy at Final Revelation of His glory
 - b) Bible is full of predictions of suffering
 - OT predicted Christ's sufferings: cf. **1:10-11** (e.g., **Isa 53**)
 - Christ predicted His sufferings: **Mt 16:21; 17:12, 22; 20: 18f**
 - Christ warned His followers they would also suffer: **Mt 10:22; Jn 15:18-21**
 - NT: **Acts 9:16; 14:22; Ro 8:17f; 1 Cor 4:12; 2 Cor 1:5; Phil 1:29, 3:10; Col 1:24; 1 Thess 2:14; 2 Thess 1:4f; 2 Tim 1:8, 12; 3:10ff; 1 Pet 2:19ff; 3:14-18**
 - iii) **[14]** *If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed*
 - a) cf., clear echo of Jesus' teaching in 8th Beatitude **Mt 5:10-12**
 - b) *because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you*
 - b) **[15-16]** Do NOT be ashamed, but be glorifying [praising] God
 - i) **[15]** *let none suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler.*
 - ii) **[16]** *Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name (cf., Acts 5:41; 16:25)*
- How persecuted are we? Why not so much? Cultural difference? Not being Salt/Light? **Lk 6:26?**
 - 2) **[17-18]** Suffering for God's glory has a judgment aspect
 - a) **[17]** *For it is time for judgment to begin at the house[hold] of God*
 - *if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not believe/obey the gospel of God?*
 - b) **[18a] Prov 11:31 [LXX]: If it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved,**
 - Not an easy & simple matter (cf., **Mt 7:14; Acts 14:22**).
 - c) **[18b] what will become of the godless man and the sinner?**
 - Their judgment will be punitive, not purgative
- Have you come to a place in your life that you have truly believed/obeyed the gospel of God.
 - 3) **[19]** Prescription for Power to Persevere under Persecution
 - a) Realize your suffering is according to God's will [**1:6; 3:17**]
 - b) Entrust/commit your soul to faithful Creator [**Lk 23:46; 1 Cor 10:13**]
 - c) Keep on doing good deeds
- **2:21: Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in His steps.** Are you?

