

“Anchored” *The Book of 1 Peter*  
Class Notes  
Session 26

**1 Peter 4.12-13** By way of encouragement...Peter makes a very clear, unequivocal statement...Suffering will happen!

Christians should not be frightened, shook up, and/or caught off guard. We must be prepared.

“Fiery trial”... *πύρωσις* (*pyrosis*)...Lit, “Burning.” Spiritual and literal? There are three, general kinds of suffering in life that we often experience...

Common Suffering...Situations that happens because we are human beings...We live in a fallen world. Our bodies wear out.

“Consequence” Suffering...Suffering caused by choices and selfish decisions that I (and/or others) make.

Christian Suffering...When we suffer for being a believer in Jesus. When we suffer for the right things...*Redemptive* suffering.

Jesus is the best example of this. Did He suffer because He did wrong or because He did right? He suffered because He did right!

*John 15.20*

The challenge... What do we *do* with our sufferings? All suffering can be used for our good and for our betterment.

**(v.13):** The words “rejoice” and “suffering” do not seem to go together!

It is the choice to rejoice. How? In our text we can see two reasons...

- Suffering Draws us Closer to God. *Matthew 11.28*
- Suffering Reveals God in Our Lives. *Romans 8.16-18*

(Martin Luther): “God lays a cross on all believers in order that they may taste and prove the power of God—the power which they have taken hold of through faith”<sup>1</sup>

**1 Peter 4.14-19** The reason we suffer for our faith is that somebody sees something different in our lives!

When we suffer for doing the right thing it draws us closer to Jesus—who knows what it is like to suffer for doing good!

Peter makes an important point here. We must be sure our persecution is for doing good, not because we are doing wrong. To suffer as a believer is to understand that our suffering should point to Jesus and His glory.

Interestingly, the word “Christian” in v.16 is found in only two other places in the New Testament (*Acts 11:26; 26:28*). D.A. Carson suggests that the use of the word “Christian” in these instances...

---

<sup>1</sup> Martin Luther. *Luther's Works* AE 30:127).

“...is assumed to have been used by detractors as a term of contempt...people of the day used the Latin ending *-ianus* (anglicized as ‘-ian’) in two ways...Herod’s followers were called ‘Herodians’ (Mk. 3:6) and so ‘Christians’ could have indicated ‘supporters of Christ.’”<sup>2</sup>

**(v.17):** The time for *judgment*... κριμα (*krima*)... “To decide”... A good or bad evaluation...

God has begun judging within the church and will judge those outside the church.

Throughout history, persecution has refined and strengthened the church.

**Going Forward...** In our sufferings...of whatever kind...God will strengthen, uphold, and bless us in the midst of our struggles. God will use any afflictions we face for our good and for blessing others.

---

<sup>2</sup> D.A. Carson, R.T. France, J.A. Motyer, and G.J. Wenham (Eds.). *New Bible Commentary* (Downers Grove, Illinois: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994).