

COURAGEOUS IN SUFFERING

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Text: 1 Peter 4:12-16

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. 14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men’s matters. 16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.” (1 Peter 4:12-16)

INTRODUCTION

- early Christians persecuted by Roman empire
- * Christians would not worship or sacrifice to pagan gods
- * Pagan gods official religion
- trials common to all humans

1. THE Commonality OF TRIALS (v. 12)

A. An expected Experience

Quote: “The road to the Kingdom is not so pleasant, and comfortable, and easy, and flowery, as many dream. It is not a bright sunny avenue of palms. It is not paved with triumph, though it is to end in victory. The termination is glory, honor, and immortality; but on the way, there is the thorn in the flesh, the sackcloth, and the cross. Recompense later; but labor here! Rest later; but weariness here! Joy and security later; but here endurance and watchfulness – the race, the battle, the burden, the stumbling block, and oftentimes the heavy heart.” —**Horatius Bonar**

- Jesus said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” (Heb 13:5)

- seasons of difficulties in life

B. An expanded Experience - expand Christian faith

Quote: "All of the fiery trials are Father filtered."

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." (2 Timothy 3:12)

2. THE Confidence IN SUFFERING

A. The presence of Christ (vs.13)

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." (Hebrews 12:2-3) Jesus suffered

Quote: "In adversity we usually want God to do a removing job when He wants to do an improving job."

B. The peace of Christ (vs.14)

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on thee: Because he trusteth in thee." (Isaiah 26:3)

Quote: "It is good to understand that Christ's service never did secure a man from all the ills that flesh is heir to, and never will. If you are a believer, you must reckon on having your share of sickness and pain, of sorrow and tears, of losses and crosses, of deaths and bereavements, of partings and separations, of vexations and disappointments, so long as you are in the body. Christ never undertakes that you shall get to heaven without these. He has undertaken that all who come to Him shall have all things pertaining to life and godliness; but He has never undertaken that He will make them prosperous, or rich, or healthy, and that death and sorrow shall never come to their family."—**J.C. Ryle**

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God; And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." (Romans 8:16-18)

Quote: "That which should distinguish the suffering of believers from unbelievers is the confidence that our suffering is under the control of an all-powerful and all-loving God; our suffering has meaning and purpose in God's eternal plan, and He brings or allows to come into our lives only that which is for His glory and our good."—**Jerry Bridges**

- Rom 5:1 ... being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Not all suffering caused by sin

3. THE Courage IN SUFFERING (vs. 15-16)

A. Are Not Deserving punishment (vs.15)

Quote: "It is, and should be the care of a Christian, not to suffer for sin, nor sin in suffering." — **Vavasor Powell**

"But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;" (1 Peter 3:14)

"Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ." (1 Peter 3:16)

B. Honor Christ when they suffer (vs.16)

"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." (2 Timothy 1:12)

"Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." (2 Timothy 1:8-9)

CONCLUSION

- some suffering due to sin
- some suffering ~~done~~ done by others
- some suffering allowed by God for sake of the gospel

