

FIRST PETER

The Christian's Life in Exile —Part 24

4:12-13— “Rejoicing Through Suffering”—September 20, 2015

“A church that is merely comfortable, that never evangelizes, never encourages its people to stand on the front line, will never be strong, never be grateful, never be able to sort out profoundly Christian priorities.”
—D.A. Carson, *How Long O Lord?*

The Christian's Election and Exile—1 Pet. 1:1-2

The Christian's Position in the People of God—1 Pet. 2:4-10

The Christian's Living Hope—1 Pet. 1:3-11

The Christian's Obligations in the People of God—1 Pet. 2:11-3:12

The Christian's Life in Relation to God—1 Pet. 1:13-2:3

The Christian's Sufferings—1 Pet. 3:13-3:22

The Christian's Conduct—1 Pet. 4:1-11

The Christian's Instructions for Suffering Well—1 Pet. 4:12-5:14

The Christian's Rejoicing Through Suffering—1 Peter 4:12-13

“¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.”

The Purpose of Christian Suffering

Peter's Pastoral Tone: “_____”

“...do not be surprised...”

⇒ A deliberate contrast drawn with _____ (4:4).

“...the fiery trial...”—*pyrōsis*— “fiery ordeal”...“the scorching flame of persecution.”

The Categories of Christian Suffering:

1. _____

The cause of this kind of suffering: We live in a _____ world.

2. _____

The cause of this kind of suffering: We are _____ in a world that is not our _____.

What is the purpose of suffering? _____!
(Ps. 66:10-12; Is. 48:9-11; Dan. 12:10; Zech. 13:8-9; 1 Pet. 1:7; Rev. 3:18)

The Christian Response to Suffering

“But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings...”

⇒ Peter's encouragement to them mirrored his own experience (Acts 5:12-42)

“...that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.”

What is the Christian response to suffering? _____!
(Acts 14:22; 2 Cor. 1:8-9; 1 Thess. 3:3; 1 Pet. 1:6-7)

What is Peter doing in this passage?

Peter wants Christians to _____ the sufferings of life.

John 16:1-4, 32-24—“I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you...Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Peter wants Christians to understand that _____ we handle suffering is of great importance.

“For as the same fire causes gold to glow brightly, and chaff to smoke...so the same violence of affliction proves, purges, and clarifies the good, but damns, ruins, exterminates the wicked. And thus it is that in the same affliction the wicked detest God and blaspheme while the good pray and praise. So material a difference does it make, not what ills are suffered, but what kind of man suffers them. For, stirred up with the same movement, mud exhales a horrible stench, and ointment emits a fragrant odor.”—Augustine of Hippo, *The City of God*