

B. We entrust ourselves to our faithful Creator by continuing to do good! What kind of good?

i. 1 Peter 2:13—4:11

ii. Galatians 6:6-10

Pierce Taylor Hibbs: “When the world heard ‘Christ,’ it said, ‘crucify.’ The voice of the world is not your true North.”

LIVE THE STORY

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

Love the Gospel

- If trials are beneficial to our faith, why are we told to pray, “Lead us not into temptation/trials”?
- Why should Christians who are suffering shame from the world not be ashamed in such suffering?

Live the Gospel

- Describe a time when you have been *surprised* or *thought it strange* that you were experiencing the fire of trials. Why do you think you were? How could it be beneficial to experience no surprise in trials?
- How is suffering rejection from the world part of our formation into Christlikeness? Why is it important to keep this in mind?
- How will the truths communicated in verses 12-18 empower believers to entrust themselves to God by doing good?
- What are some of the ways we are to do good in a way that entrusts ourselves to God?

Advance the Gospel

- Discuss: “When the church scurries about seeking the affirmation of the world, it will never put itself in a position to receive the affirmation of God.” Why is it important to remember whose good judgment we desire?

The Mystery of Suffering Saints

Jerry Cisar — October 24, 2021

Text: 1 Peter 4:12-19

Introduction: *Money can't buy happiness and other myths.*

I. No Surprise (4:12-13)

- A. Two things should be noted by way of introduction:
- i. Trials were not the everyday experience of these believers.
 - ii. We need to be reminded not to be surprised at suffering.

B. Peter tells us we should have *no surprise*.

- i. 1 Peter 1:6-7
 - a) This testing is beneficial.
 - b) We are instructed to pray, “Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.”
- ii. I am not exempt from this tendency toward surprise.

iii. As a church, we are much the same way.

- iv. To embrace these kinds of difficulties we must view them as **part of our formation** into Christlikeness.
- C. Do not be surprised but rejoice.
 - i. The alternative to surprise is rejoicing!
 - a) Matthew 5:12
 - b) Luke 6:23
 - c) Acts 5:41
 - ii. Rejoice now that you might rejoice then.
 - a) Hebrews 10:39
 - b) How we respond to suffering now impacts our faithfulness to Christ in the future.

II. No Shame (4:14-18)

- A. A good part of the suffering which these believers may have endured involved insults.
 - i. Peter is including all the other types of speech he has talked about in this letter: malice, slander, abusive speech.
 - ii. He isn't excluding physical suffering!
- B. "If you are insulted because of Christ's name (*as a Christian*), you are blessed therefore do not have any shame in this insult but glorify God in that name."
 - i. The opposite of rejoicing is being ashamed.
 - ii. Shame heaped on the believer suffering for Christ is the consequence of the world's judgment, not God's!
 - a) Jesus went about doing good and restored *honor* to people who had been *shamed* and therefore *excluded*.
 - b) By embracing their shame, he honored them.
 - iii. We can rejoice because God has honored us by counting us worthy of suffering for Christ's name... as a Christian.

- C. We are not to be ashamed but to glorify God by rejoicing:
 - i. Because the glory and the Spirit of God rests on you.
 - 1 Peter 2:4-7
 - Acts 7:55
 - ii. Because it is time for judgment to begin with the house of God, but if beginning with us, what is the end of those who disobey the Gospel of God?
 - a) God's judgment is seen in our own suffering. But this has a real twist:
In our suffering, God is honoring us, welcoming us to the highest seat of honor with Christ His Son.
 - b) The end of those who do not obey the Gospel of God is another judgment.
 - In v18, Peter is quoting from the LXX Prov. 11:31.
 - Acts 14:19-22
 - The 2nd half is literally, "where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?"
- D. We are to rejoice because judgment has begun with us... and it is God's judgment which honors us as worthy of suffering with Christ (if we are suffering as a Christian).

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "This suffering first takes the form of dying the death upon the cross in baptism; it then is Christians' 'daily dying' (1 Cor. 15:31) by virtue of their baptism. It is, in addition, a suffering that bears an indescribable promise."

III. No Stopping (4:19)

- A. We must entrust our lives to our Faithful Creator!

- 1 Peter 2:23