

R E M E M B E R Y O U R

HOPE

1 Peter 4:12-19

Introduction

- Peter reminds us that we should rejoice in our sufferings.
- If we are persecuted for Christ's sake, then we are blessed.
- He then focuses our attention on a future judgment day.
- That is another reason to hope.
- Those who have been faithful to Christ will be vindicated and the ungodly will be punished.

Question: End Times Judgment



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Our sufferings can be times of testing

1 Peter 4:12

Fiery Trial

- Peter says we should not be surprised if you go through fiery trials.
- Jesus said the world would hate us because it hates Him (John 15:18–25).
- He said the cost of discipleship is high (Luke 14:25–33).
- The first believers suffered persecution for their faith (Acts 8:1; Galatians 3:4).
- Paul even wrote that “all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Timothy 3:12).

Fiery Trial

- If we have a realistic expectation of persecution, we will handle it better
- If we think everything will be perfect, then we may abandon our faith.
- God wants to bless us, but that doesn't mean the "health and wealth" gospel that promises abundance and perfect health.
- This term "fiery trials" only appears here and in the Greek translation of Proverbs 27:21 and 17:3.
- It refers to the Lord testing our hearts by refining them like silver or gold.

Fiery Trial

- The Greek word for “test” refers to the testing of our fidelity, integrity, and virtue.
- Will we remain faithful to God’s law or will we fail the test?
- In this way, suffering is a test for believers to determine if we will choose evil and therefore turn our backs on God.
- Will we fix our eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:1–3) and the hope of eternal life with Him? Or will we refuse to walk in faith?

If we are persecuted for Christ's sake,
we are blessed

1 Peter 4:13-16

Rejoice

- Peter says we should rejoice. That is not our natural reaction.
- Paul says the same thing. Sharing in Christ's sufferings means sharing in His glory (Philippians 3:10–11; Romans 8:17).
- The book of Acts says that the disciples “rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name of Jesus.”
- They rejoiced that God considered them worthy to suffer for His name.

Rejoice

- In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught His disciples:
- “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”
- This has been the testimony of the early church and the testimony of believers even today in the 21st century.

Rejoice

- Peter makes sure to clarify here for his readers, that this blessing only comes if you are suffering for doing good.
- If you suffer for doing evil, that's is different (1 Peter 4:15).
- But if you are suffering for the sake of the Gospel, you should count yourself blessed, just as the disciples did.
- Paul had a thorn in the flesh and prayed for it to be taken away. When God said no, he rejoiced in His suffering because God's power is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9–10).

Entrust your salvation to the Lord, just
focus on doing good

1 Peter 4:17-19

Judgment

- Peter ends this section by focusing on the Day of Judgment.
- They can trust in their eternal security and focus on doing good.
- Peter contrasts what will happen to the “righteous” and the “wicked” on the Day of Judgment.
- Those who are declared “righteous” on Judgment Day are only “righteous” because they have taken on the righteousness of Christ (Romans 4:3, 23–25).

Judgment

- What does it mean that the righteous are scarcely saved?
- This is reference to Proverbs 11:31 but put in a different way.
- A more literal translation in the Greek might read: “The righteous is saved with difficulty.”
- What is that difficulty? This refers to the death Jesus Christ on the cross and His passion (the suffering He endured to save us) on that cross.

Judgment

- Judgment begins at the household of God (the Church).
- Judgment will start with us; we will be declared righteous before God, but the ungodly will receive punishment.
- Peter tells them they can be confident in their final inheritance in the kingdom.
- They have eternal security in their salvation (John 10:28–29; Ephesians 4:30), so while on earth, they can “entrust their souls to a faithful Creator” and focus on doing good.

Historical context:

What were the fiery trials
these believers faced?