



"No Strangers to Suffering" (Part 1)

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1 Peter 4:12



12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you. **13** But in the degree you share in the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. **14** If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. **15** Let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evil doer or a busybody. **16** But if [any of you suffers] as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.

17 For [it is] time for judgement to begin from the house of God; and if [it begins] with us first, what will [be the] end of those who are disobedient to Gospel of God? **18** And, IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS BEING SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE UNGODLY AND THE SINNER? **19** Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing good.

– 1 Peter 4:12-19, As translated from the Greek New Testament by T. Bartolucci.

The Passage is Also Found on Page 182 of the New Testament Section of the Pew Bibles

Introduction

* Revisiting the Topic of Suffering in 1 Peter

i. 1:6-9

Five characteristics of persevering faith: 1) *Results in Joy* (6a); 2) *Stands the Test of Trials* (6b-7); 3) *Loves The Lord (whom we have not seen)* (8a); 4) *Believes in The Lord (whom we don't see)* (8b); 5) *Is the Means to Final Salvation* (9)

ii. 2:18 ff.

An emphasis that we see time and again is that our suffering must not be caused by our own sinful actions (2:12; 2:19-20; 3:9-12; 3:13-14; 3:16-17; 4:15-16).

iii. 5:6-11

- * We Must Expect to Suffer (12)
- * We Must Fellowship in the Sufferings of Christ (13-14)
- * We Must Suffer for the Right Reasons (15-16)
- * We Must Persevere Knowing that Heaven and Hell Stand in the Balance (17-19)

I. Pearls of Joy in an Ocean of Pain: Finding Joy in Suffering (12-19)

A. We Must Expect to Suffer (12)

1. "The Great Lie of Christian Ease"

2. Suffering is God's Will for Those Whom He Loves

a. Agapētoi (Ἀγαπητοί) – Also used in 2:11

b. The *fiery ordeal*

"In the total expanse of human life there is not a single square inch of which the Christ, who alone is sovereign, does not declare, 'That is mine!'"
– Abraham Kuyper [Dutch Theologian]

(1) Descriptive term for suffering borrowed from the O.T. (Prov. 27:21; Psa. 66:10)

3. Suffering is for our Testing, our Good, and God's Glory (cf. 1:7)

a. James 1:2 ff.

"You must submit to supreme suffering in order to discover the completion of joy."
– John Calvin

Conclusion ==>

*Pearls of Joy in an Ocean of Pain:
Finding Joy in Suffering*

"The Great King keeps His wine there." (In the cellar of affliction) – Samuel Rutherford

"They who dive in the sea of affliction bring up rare pearls." – C.H. Spurgeon