



"No Strangers to Suffering" (Part 2)

09091Pe4.13-14(94)

1 Peter 4:13-14



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

- * The 3rd century Martyrdom of Vibia Perpetua
- * Nero and the suffering of Peter's first century readers

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

A. We Must Expect to Suffer (12)

1. Suffering is God's Will for Those Whom He Loves
2. Suffering is for our Testing, our Good, and God's Glory

Our pain is to be tempered by the joy of suffering in Christ as we persevere in doing good, knowing that one day our joy will be made complete.

B. We Must Fellowship in the Sufferings of Christ (13-14)

1. This means we suffer for Him (13a)

a. What does Peter mean when he writes, "But *in the degree* you share in the sufferings of Christ . . . "?

(1) The word *katho* (καθο) expresses a measure, or a degree (in this case suffering)

"There is a correlation between the degree of suffering you experience for Christ and your joy."

2. This means we keep a dual focus (13b-14)

a. Future glory (13b)

(1) What's the "revelation of His glory"? (cf. 1:6-7, 13; 5:4, 10)

(2) The "double joy" of those who persevere in suffering

And the ransomed of the Lord will return, And come with joyful shouting to Zion, With everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, And sorrow and sighing will flee away. — Isaiah 35:10

b. Present grace (14)

(1) *If you are reviled for the name of Christ . . .* (first class condition, cf. 3:14-16)

(2) This verse is a restatement of what Peter wrote in 3:14-16

(3) Reviled or slandered specifically *for the name of Christ* (cf. John 15:1-20; Acts 5:41-42; Matthew 5:11)

(4) Peter's words, "for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you" are taken from Isaiah 11:2 -

And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

(a) Why would Peter allude to Isaiah 11 here in the context of believer's suffering?

Conclusion - Bringing both themes of future glory and present grace: Romans 8:18-39