

7. Note the contrast in verse 16 ("But if [any of you suffers] as a Christian . . . ")

a. As a *Christianos* (Χριστιανός) a word that means "a follower of Christ"

(1) This stood in contrast to a *Kaisarianos* (someone who worshiped Caesar)

D. We Must Persevere Knowing that Heaven and Hell Stand in the Balance (17-19)

1. God's People May Suffer First and Most,
but not Last and Longest (17-18)

a. Age old question: "Why are God's people
suffering and evildoers going unpunished?"

"Resolved, to endeavor to my utmost to act
as I can think I should do, if I had already
seen the happiness of heaven, and hell's
torments." [Jonathan Edwards]

"I desire to have heaven and hell forever in
my eyes – to live upon this tiny isthmus of
life between those two great and boundless
oceans." [John Wesley]

b. The answer? It comes down to one's perspective

This 'judgement' (v. 16) connects to verse 12 "do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you." The 'fiery ordeal' is God's judgement—but not His condemnation.

c. The connection is to Ezekiel 9

d. For emphasis Peter asks another rhetorical question in v. 18

2. God's People are to Entrust Themselves to Him in Well-Doing (19, cf. 5:10)

Conclusion -