

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 - Our Lord's familiarity with Suffering

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

A. We Must Expect to Suffer (12)

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

- C. We Must Suffer for the Right Reasons (15-16)
 - 1. To be born into this life is to be born unto ______
- 2. We as believers are to be sure that we suffer for the right reasons something Peter emphasizes by way of a negative
 - a. Peter lists four areas of sin in verse 15:

1)	Murderer	
3)	Evildoer	

2) Thief
4) Busybody

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)