

## I Peter 4:12-19

*More Common Trials To Come So Commit The Keeping Of Their Souls To God*

### I. Introduction:

A. It is great when you know better days are on the horizon or that what you are suffering is temporary (**Revelation 2:8-11**).

1. Christians know better than to think we will coast through life in this world without any trouble (**II Timothy 3:10-12**).
2. There is obviously concern for prolonged persecution for unrooted believers that can stumble (**Mark 4:17**).

B. In this letter, these saints were told how to see good days (**I Peter 3:8-12**).

1. We are about to see that Peter is preparing them for coming days, but not good ones as we have seen others prepare for the same (**Acts 14:22**).
2. The beginning of this chapter stands out even more when we look at what we are about to study through (**I Peter 4:1-2**).

II. Body: *“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men’s matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator”* (**I Peter 4:12-19**).

A. Peter was preparing them for more persecution to come by reminding them it wasn’t just happening to them (**I Peter 5:8-9**).

1. From the jump Jesus was clear about what would come upon His disciples and that such suffering should be joyful in light of the reward (**Matthew 5:10-12**).
2. They hated Jesus and treated Him poorly for the same reason such happens to the faithful (**John 3:19-21** and **John 15:18-20**).
3. We have read similar statements in this letter already (**I Peter 3:14-17**).

B. If you suffer or are reproached for the name of Christ, don’t be ashamed (**Luke 6:22-23**).

1. The Spirit of glory and of God resteth [in the sense of refreshing] upon them (**Ephesians 3:14-16**).
  - a. The Greek term translated “resteth” here is translated “rest” as in getting rest or “refreshed” or similar in several other places (**Mark**

**6:31, I Corinthians 16:18, II Corinthians 7:13, Philemon 1:20, and Revelation 6:11).**

b. Remember, the Holy Spirit was actively working through and among saints in the first century (**Acts 19:1-7, Galatians 3:1-5, etc.**).

c. Some could falsely think their suffering meant they were not living aright (**Luke 13:1-5 and John 9:1-2**).

d. The Spirit served, in times wherein the word of God was not completely revealed or wholly available, as evidence of one's relationship with God (**Ephesians 1:13-14**).

2. Those that persecuted the saints spoke evil of God, but those who suffered did so to His glory (**I Peter 2:12**).

3. "Partakers [fellowship] of Christ's sufferings" (**Romans 8:17 and II Timothy 2:12**).

C. As we saw in chapter three, don't suffer for doing wrong (**I Peter 3:17**).

1. Hey busybody, mind your own business (**I Thessalonians 4:11**).

2. Furthermore, you should be too busy to be up in everyone else's business (**II Thessalonians 3:11-13 and I Timothy 5:11-14**).

D. Judgment will commence first at the house of God and there is an expectation (**Ephesians 5:25-27**).

1. The house of God is the church (**I Timothy 3:15**).

2. We know the end of them that do not obey the Gospel (**Mark 16:15-16, John 12:48, Romans 2:8, and II Thessalonians 1:7-9**).

3. It should be startling to all to know the righteous are scarcely [with difficulty: - hardly] saved. Even of old, the righteous did not get "extra credit" (**Ezekiel 18:24 and Ezekiel 33:12-13**).

4. It is a whole lot easier to be lost than most would like to think (**Hebrews 3:12-4:11**).

5. Few will be saved (**Matthew 7:13-14 and Luke 13:23-24**).

E. If a saint is suffering as a Christian, living according to the will of God, he or she can confidently put his or her soul in God's hands (**II Timothy 1:7-12**).

1. As long as you don't walk away (**John 6:66**), Jesus won't discard you (**John 6:37**) and our Father will not lose you (**John 10:27-29**).

2. Suffering won't separate us from our Lord (**Romans 8:28-39**).

3. God is faithful (**I Corinthians 1:9**), we can trust Him (**Deuteronomy 7:9 and Titus 1:1-2**).

III. Conclusion: Our Next Study; *"The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away"* (**I Peter 5:1-4**).