

Think It Not Strange

I. Introduction:

A. Sometimes things happen to people and it feels overwhelming to the point that fleeing seems to be the resolution (**Psalms 55:1-7**).

1. Even after Elijah stood boldly and destroyed hundreds of false prophets (**I Kings 18:17-46**), Jezebel's threat to his life caused him to flee and feel alone (**I Kings 19:1-18**).

2. Another reaction is to be overwhelmed and complain (**Psalms 77:1-3**).

B. Whether in this life or in the world to come, the just come out of trouble (**Proverbs 12:13** and **Romans 8:35-39**).

1. In anticipation of the destruction of Jerusalem, the scattered saints (**James 1:1**; cf. **Acts 8:1**) were told to be patient [forbear] (**James 5:7-11**).

2. We need to remind ourselves that Heaven is not on earth (**I Peter 1:3-4**) and that should help us keep moving forward (**Titus 3:7-8**).

II. Body: **I Peter 4:12-19**

A. In general, much of what we face as disciples is not uncommon to what all of mankind faces (**Ecclesiastes 6:1-12** and **I Corinthians 10:13**).

1. Much of the sorrows we face in life have nothing to do with us being Christians (**Job 14:1** and **Ecclesiastes 2:17-23**).

2. Remember, Jesus died to deliver the saints from this present evil world (**Galatians 1:4**) and things have not improved (**II Timothy 3:13**).

B. There are things we face, as disciples of the Lord, that are targeted at saints (**Matthew 5:10-12** and **II Timothy 3:10-12**).

1. If we suffer for righteousness sake, don't let those things move you (**Acts 20:22-24** and **I Peter 3:14**).

2. You're not alone in the things this world does to you because you're a faithful child of God (**I Peter 5:8-9**).

3. We have been armed by the Lord to overcome these things on a daily basis (**Psalms 119:92**, **Acts 18:22-23**, and **II Corinthians 7:5-6**).

C. Beyond the daily tools we have; ultimately, the sufferings of this present time are not worthy... (**Romans 8:18**).

1. Look unto Jesus (**Hebrews 12:1-3**).

2. Let the things of this world make you stronger (**Romans 5:3**, **II Corinthians 12:7-10**, and **James 1:2-4**).

III. Conclusion: This world is not meant to be pleasant to the soul (**John 16:33**). Rather than sinking deep in depressive thinking and being drained, remember our hope (**Luke 6:21-23** and **I Thessalonians 4:13-5:11**).