



#8 Called to Rejoice in Suffering

I Peter 4:12-19

I Peter 4:12 (ESV) Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

I Peter 4:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved,

what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

THE APOSTLE PETER'S MESSAGE TO 1ST CENTURY BELIEVERS

1. **EXPECT TO SUFFER FOR CHRIST** 4:12

A. Jesus, Paul, and Peter all predicted it

B. It's a cost of discipleship “take up your cross” ... “to this you were called...” “follow in His steps”

2. **REJOICE IN SUFFERING FOR CHRIST** 4:13-14

A. The blessing in the moment

B. The blessing in the future

3. **DISCERN THE TRUE REASON FOR YOUR SUFFERING** 4:15-16

4. **RESPOND WITH FAITH AND OBEDIENCE IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING** 4:19

TEN REASONS WHY I'M **NOT** A FAN OF THE HEALTH AND WEALTH “GOSPEL”

- #1 It reduces and diminishes **GOD**
- #2 It's based on a **MAN-CENTERED** system of theology
- #3 It feeds the rampant **CONSUMERISM** of western “Christianity”
- #4 It offers unredeemed people what they already **CRAVE**
- #5 It's contaminating other **COUNTRIES'** view of God and Christianity
- #6 It's based on **FAULTY** hermeneutics
- #7 It's sadly mistaken about God's ultimate **PURPOSES**
- #8 It ignores clear NT teaching on the **VALUE** of trials, hardship and suffering
- #9 It produces **DISILLUSIONMENT** with yourself and/or God
- #10 It's contrary to the life and teachings of **JESUS**