

1 Peter 4:12-19

C A L L E D T O
S U F F E R



Background

The sufferings of the early Christians were just what Peter will say, "fiery." Most of us have seen pictures of believers being fed to wild lions and burned at the stake, but these were mild deaths compared to what some believers suffered.

In comparison our suffering is mild.

C A L L E D T O
S U F F E R

1 Peter 4:12-19

12 Dear friends, when the fiery ordeal arises among you to test you, don't be surprised by it, as if something unusual were happening to you.

13 Instead, as you share in the sufferings of the Messiah rejoice, so that you may also rejoice with great joy at the revelation of His glory.

C A L L E D T O
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1 Peter 4:12-19

14 If you are ridiculed for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

15 None of you, however, should suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a meddler.

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1 Peter 4:12-19

16 But if [anyone suffers] as a Christian, he should not be ashamed, but should glorify God with that name. 17 For the time has come for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who disobey the gospel of God?

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18 And if the righteous is saved with difficulty, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?

19 So those who suffer according to God's will should, in doing good, entrust themselves to a faithful Creator.

1. Suffering Should not Surprise Us

...when the fiery ordeal arises among you to test you, don't be surprised by it,

We are surprised and astonished when persecution or suffering comes along, and we wonder why God does not protect us.

Why suffer? God allows it for one very basic reason: to test and try and prove us.

2. Suffering Brings Rejoicing

...so that you may also rejoice with great joy at the revelation of His glory.

We do not rejoice for the suffering, but we rejoice to see God work in our lives.

- When we suffer, we are sharing in Christ's sufferings.
- When we suffer, we shall be greatly rewarded when Christ returns in glory.

3. Do Not Seek Suffering

None of you, however, should suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a meddler.

Do not bring suffering and persecution upon yourself by breaking some law or doing some evil thing.

Suffering for Christ means that a person is persecuted because he is living for and proclaiming Christ.

4. Do Not Be Ashamed of Suffering

16 But if [anyone suffers] as a Christian, he should not be ashamed, but should glorify God with that name.

No believer should ever be ashamed of the fact that he is a Christian.

We are to take a stand for Christ and stand firm.

We are to glorify God by standing up for and honoring the name of Christ.

Suffering? Keep Doing God's Will

16 But if [anyone suffers] as a Christian, he should not be ashamed, but should glorify God with that name.

We do not rejoice for the suffering, but we rejoice to see God work in our lives.

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19 So those who suffer according to God's will should, in doing good, entrust themselves to a faithful Creator.

How do we answer the call to suffer?

By entrusting our all to God.