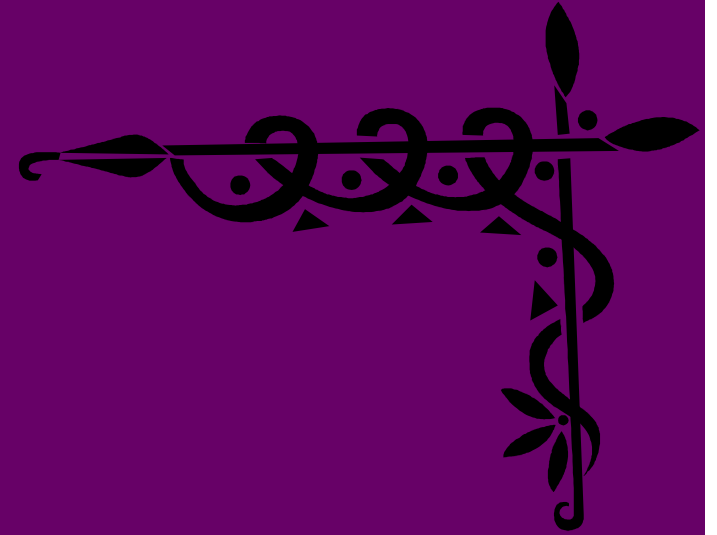


A Suffering People

1st Peter 4



Review of 1st Peter

- **Strangers...Pilgrims of Dispersion**
 - 66AD, Jews rebel against Rome
 - By 70AD, uprising crushed, 1000's murdered
 - Christians scattered throughout empire
- **Be encouraged because:**
 - **Ch. 1**, Saved People, (purchased by Christ blood)
 - **Ch. 2**, Separated People (birth, belief, behavior)
 - **Ch. 3**, Submissive People (marriage, church, mission)
 - **Ch. 4**, Suffering People



1st Peter 3:18-22

- **Christ suffered once for our sins**
 - The just died for the unjust
 - He died that we might be brought to Christ
- **The days of Noah**
 - Divine suffering prepared the way for Jesus
 - ARK prepared, 8 souls saved through water
 - Likewise, ***“baptism doth also now saves us...by the resurrection of Jesus Christ”***
 - Mark 16:16, Gal. 3:27, Acts 2:38, Rom. 6:3-7



Suffering Can Be Expected

1st Peter 4:1-6

- **Vs. 1, Since Christ suffered for us**
 - Arm ourselves with the mind of Christ
 - What is the mind of Christ?
 - **Philippians 2:2-5**, *“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:”*
 - **Ephesians 6:10-18**, Whole Armour of God



Suffering Can Be Expected

1st Peter 4:1-6

- **Vs. 2-3, Times past we walked like Gentiles**
 - *“walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries”*
 - **1st John 1:6-7**, *“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth, But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with another, and in the blood of Jesus Christ”*
 - **Can't live like the world, and walk with Him**



Suffering Can Be Expected

1st Peter 4:1-6

- **Vs. 4, The world thinks Christians strange**
 - *“strange ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you”*
 - Living a life of indulgence, intemperance, & self satisfaction is not of the mind of Christ
 - **Galatians 5:19-21**, Works of the Flesh
 - **Galatians 5:22-26**, Fruits of the Spirit
- **Vs. 5-6, Everyone will give an account**
 - Living and Dead
 - Judged in the flesh, according to God



Suffering Can Be Made Easier

1st Peter 4:7-11

- **Vs. 7, Easier by making good decisions**
 - “**end of all things is at hand**”
 - Days of persecution from Nero, 1000’s killed
 - People burned alive, fed to beast, beheaded
 - Estimated over 1,000,000 Jews/Christians killed
 - “**be sober**”, (sound mind, mind of Christ)
 - Not drunken reveling, Not generating strife
 - “**watch unto prayer**” (communicate with God)
 - 1st Thessalonians 5:16-22, Communication!



Suffering Can Be Made Easier

1st Peter 4:7-11

- **Vs. 8-9, With fervent charity among selves**
 - ***“Charity shall cover the multitude of sins”***
 - The holocaust was in their backdoor
 - They needed each other
 - ***“Use hospitality one to another”***
 - Not grudgingly, willingly, lovingly
 - **Romans 12:9-21, Importance of Love**
 - When suffering for Christ, no time for evil
 - They needed each other, SO DO WE
 - Need comfort, joy, safety in troubled times



Suffering Can Be Made Easier

1st Peter 4:7-11

- **Vs. 10, By using our gifts**
 - *“as every man has received the gift, even so minister the same one to another”*
 - Be good stewards of “Time, Talent, & Money”
- **Vs. 11, By speaking & ministering**
 - *“speak as the oracles of God”*
 - *“minister, let him do it as of the ability that God giveth”*

***Do All Things That God be “Glorified”
Though Christ***



Suffering Can Be Endured

1st Peter 4:12-18

- **Vs. 12, By keeping the right perspective**
 - ***“some strange things happened to you”***
 - Experience fiery trials
 - Natural the world hates you
 - **John 15:18-19**, Apostles heard same message, ***“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.”***
 - **2nd Timothy, 3:12**, ***“all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution”***



Suffering Can Be Endured

1st Peter 4:12-18

- Vs. 13-14, By Rejoicing

- *“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...of your part he is glorified”*
 - *Philippians, 4:4, “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice”*



Suffering Can Be Endured

1st Peter 4:12-18

- **Vs. 15, By keeping pure**
 - *“none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men’s matters.*
 - Continue to behave as Christians
 - **Romans 12:19**, *“Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord”*
 - **Matthew 5:44**, *“Love our enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you and persecute you.”*



Suffering Can Be Endured

1st Peter 4:12-18

- **Vs. 16-17, If we truly suffer for Christ**
 - *“if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.”*
 - *“time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be for them that obey not the gospel of God*



Suffering Can Be Endured

1st Peter 4:12-18

- **Vs. 18, If we are righteous**
 - *“if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?”*
 - **Matthew 5:20**, *“except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.”*
 - **Matthew 7:12-13**, *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”*



Conclusion

- **1st Peter 4:19**, *“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”*
 - Suffering can be expected
 - Suffering can be made easier
 - Suffering can be endured

Questions is:

Will my suffering make me bitter or better?

Each of us has a choice!

