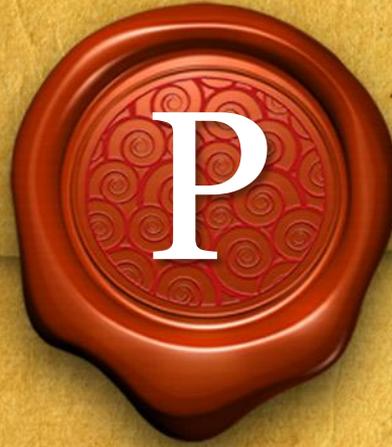


**STUDYING THROUGH  
1 PETER (26)**



**Suffering as a  
Christian  
1 Peter 4:12-16**

# Previously

Peter continues to encourage his audience to faithfully endure, even though they were facing trials and tribulations.

Previously Peter has addressed suffering for righteousness, and in this lesson, that subject is again addressed, this time more directly.

# Expectant suffering (12-14)

## Do not think it strange

- **Cf. 1 Peter 4:4** – same wording that noted how others “think it strange” that you no longer walk with them in their worldly ways. NOW, we are not to “think it strange” either, BUT here the idea is IF fiery trials come our way. Do NOT be surprised at rejection and even persecutions

# Expectant suffering (12-14)

**The fiery trial which is to try you**

- **1 Peter 1:6-7** – our genuine faith may be “tested by fire” **Cf. 3:13-17**

NT warnings about suffering

**Matthew 5:10-12, John 15:18-20**

**- 2 Corinthians 11:22-28,**

**Philippians 3:8** – Paul

**1 John 3:13, 2 Timothy 3:12**

Godly living will likely, in time, produce hostility

# Expectant suffering (12-14)

**As though some strange thing happened to you**

Do not be surprised, and therefore **PREPARE** for it. That is all we can really do.

Lord willing, we will not face such severe trials. **BUT** we should live as if they are going to happen.

## Expectant suffering (12-14)

**But rejoice to the extent that you partake in Christ's sufferings**

Consolation in knowing that what you endure, was also endured (likely with more severity) by our Lord

**1 Peter 2:21-24, 3:18**, or any gospel account of His arrest to His crucifixion

# Expectant suffering (12-14)

**But rejoice to the extent that  
you partake in Christ's  
sufferings**

Rejoicing in suffering:

**Acts 5:41, 16:25**

**Matthew 5:12**

**2 Corinthians 1:5-7**

**Philippians 3:10-11** – Paul's  
fellowship in His suffering

# Expectant suffering (12-14)

**That when He is glorified, you may be glad with exceeding joy**

- **Matthew 5:12**

- God is glorified as we endure trials and sufferings **1 Peter 4:11,**

- Matthew 5:16** (in all things)

- When He is glorified, we can anticipate one day He will glorify us

- 1 Peter 1:6-7**

- Romans 8:16-18**

- 2 Corinthians 4:17**

## Expectant suffering (12-14)

**If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit and glory of God rests upon you**

Our emphasis thus far. God knows and will reward accordingly.

**On their part He is blasphemed, But on your part He is glorified** (KJV, NKJV) – the ungodly blaspheme God as they reject Him and when they reject and afflict the godly

# Suffering as a Christian (15-16)

**But let not any of you suffer as... murderer or thief**

Peter begins with crimes that likely were not carried out by Christians (murder, theft).

IF we are guilty of such, then punishment is appropriate

**(cf. Acts 25:11)**

God even gives authority for such –

**1 Peter 2:20, 1 Timothy 1:9-10, Romans 13:4, 1 Peter 2:14, etc.**

# Suffering as a Christian (15-16)

**But let not any of you suffer as...  
an evildoer**

A broad term. Anything that is evil (NOT perceived evil which many Christians were accused of - **1 Peter 2:12, 3:16** )

Sometimes “evil” yields consequences other than criminal punishment – loss of friends, reputation, jobs, etc.

Sinners against God incur His wrath  
**cf. Romans 2:8-9.**

# Suffering as a Christian (15-16)

**But let not any of you suffer as... a busybody in other people's matters**

This one can hit much closer to home. A busy body is one who meddles in the affairs of others (strives to oversee their affairs – UNINVITED!)

We are to lead quiet lives –

**1 Thessalonians 4:11,  
2 Thessalonians 3:11-12**

# Suffering as a Christian (15-16)

**But let not any of you suffer as... a busybody in other people's matters**

NOBODY likes to be around one constantly meddling in the affairs of others, whether Christian or not!

ARE we minding our own business, or are we trying to stir things up. Are we trying to FORCE the ungodly to comply with our standard?

# Suffering as a Christian (15-16)

**But let not any of you suffer as... a busybody in other people's matters**

Many today, cause trouble and interfere “in the name of the Lord” and give the ungodly plenty of reason to think of us as evil.

Sometimes, what we need to do, “in the name of the Lord” is BE QUIET and stay away from ungodly practices.

# Suffering as a Christian (15-16)

**But let not any of you suffer as... a busybody in other people's matters**

You will NOT change the ungodly by rubbing salt in their ungodly wounds.  
You will NOT legislate them unto righteousness or morality

# Suffering as a Christian (15-16)

**But let not any of you suffer as... a busybody in other people's matters**

As long as we do not HAVE TO participate in wickedness, or violate God's laws (**cf. Acts 5:29**), we need to mind our own business.

This does NOT mean we cannot lobby for change, but we MUST consider our actions. **Remember, we are pilgrims!**

# Suffering as a Christian (15-16)

## Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian

*Christian* only found 3 times in the New Testament - (**Acts 11:26, 26:28, here**).

As used in our text, this was clearly a designation they accepted and wore to distinguish them from other religions (including Judaism).

# Suffering as a Christian (15-16)

## **Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian**

AGAIN, this is not one going out to provoke others.

This is suffering “for the cause of Christ”, a circumstance where you are compelled to either follow God or man’s edicts and ways that conflict with the word of God

# Suffering as a Christian (15-16)

**Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian**

NOTE: We must distinguish between suffering **BECAUSE** you are obeying God **AND** using your faith with a “martyr complex.”

Some suffer because of decisions and then claim they are suffering for Christ.

E.g. – destroying property of others  
- unlawful protests.

Such things make it **MORE** difficult for other Christians to lead a quiet life

**(1 Timothy 2:1-2)**. They do **NOT** promote the gospel of Christ

# Suffering as a Christian (15-16)

**Let him not be ashamed**

Do not be ashamed of your Lord, even if the world humiliates you.

Do not let the world's intimidation keep you from doing what you ought to do –

**2 Timothy 1:8, 12, Romans 1:16,**

Again **Acts 5:41**

**But let him glorify God in this matter** (“in this name” – NASB)



Studies in 1 Peter



**What are you willing  
to endure for Him?**  
**2 Thessalonians 1:6-10**



Studies in 1 Peter



Let us pray!