

1 Peter 4:7-19 Spiritual Duty and the Rewards of Christian Suffering

- Principle- Maintaining the right perspective and focus in persecution and suffering v. 7-11
 - There is more to this life than this world
 - This isn't a believers home
 - Faithers have a guaranteed future, beyond any human description
 - Faithers have a unique opportunity to introduce others to the love of Christ Jesus
- Practice- Recognize the times that are at hand v. 7-10
 - Be alert, watchful, sober in spirit for prayer
 - And above all...LOVE ONE ANOTHER...Fervently
 - Love covers many sins Romans 5:8
 - Be HOSPITABLE...without complaint
 - EMPLOY your spiritual gift(s) to serve one another
 - It's stewardship
 - You demonstrate God's grace in your life
 - Your speech should take on the character of the very utterances of God
 - Your service should employ every ounce of strength given to you by God
- Purpose- Glorify God v. 11c
 - Do it to glorify God through Christ Jesus
 - All glory belongs to Him anyway... now and forever!!!
- Principle- Don't be surprised by persecution v. 12
 - A fiery ordeal probably can and will come Mal. 3:1-3
 - Recognize it's a test from God James 1:1-3
- Practice- Rejoice in your difficulties v. 13-14
 - You're blessed, if you share in the sufferings of Christ
 - Luke 6:22-23; Psalm 31
- Practice- Evaluate the cause for suffering v. 15-18
 - Don't get punished for wrong doing
 - These behaviors don't belong to Christians

- Murder, stealing, evildoing, or meddling
 - And don't feel ashamed if you suffer as a Christian
 - Glory in the name Christian
 - And glorify God by your acceptance of suffering
 - Judgment may be landing on those in Christ
 - Purging, chastening, purifying
 - What then, will be the judgment of sinners?
- Purpose- Entrusting our souls to God in doing good v. 19
 - He is our faithful creator
 - If we are suffering for our testimony in Christ Jesus...it's by God's will
- Matt. 5:10-12; Galatians 6:17; Philippians 1:29, 3:10; Colossians 1:24; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
- How would you speak to a Christian in our church if they were going through persecution/suffering in light of this passage from Peter? What would be your self-speak if it's you?