

## I. INTRODUCTION.

-  A. Scripture text: **1Peter 4:12-16.**  
Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; [13] but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation. [14] If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. [15] By no means let any of you suffer as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; [16] but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.
- B. Chapter 4 contains some thoughts already stated by Peter in this epistle; but there is additional information that makes this repetition much stronger in meaning.
- C. There is victory for the Xian in their suffering if they have the right lifestyle and attitude.
- D. My (remaining) schedule:
7. Aug. 30 The Victory Over Suffering (1Pet. 4).
  8. Sep. 06 The Victory Over Satan (1Pet. 5).
  9. Sep. 13 The True Knowledge of Life (2Pet. 1:1-15).
  10. Sep. 20 True Knowledge Revealed (2Pet. 1:16-2:22).
  11. Sep. 27 The Safeguards of True Knowledge (2Pet. 3:1-18).

## II. THE VICTORY OVER SUFFERING.

-  A. The text: See 1Pet. 4:1-6.
- B. The Xian can have a great victory over suffering. Notice the argument Peter puts forth:
1. The divine example (4:1).  
Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,
  2. The power (4:2).  
so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.
  3. The reminder of the pre-Xian life (4:3).  
For the time already past is sufficient *for you* to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousals, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.
    - a. Lasciviousness = unbridled lusts and excesses of the age.
    - b. Lusts = evil desires, inwardly entertained.
    - c. Winebibbings = to overflow, a picture of drunkenness.
    - d. Revellings = rioting, merry making.
    - e. Banquetings -- drinking matches.
    - f. Abominable idolatries = licentious and drunken parties for fleshly sins and idolatrous worship.
  4. The present experience (4:4).  
And in *all* this, they are surprised that you do not run with *them* into the same excess of dissipation, and they malign *you*;
  5. The great encouragement (4:5).  
but they shall give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.
  6. The special illustration (4:6).  
For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to *the will of God*.
- C. Non-Xians will have to give an account for these things, but the Xian a far different one (1Pet. 3:15).  
but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;
- D. Hence, the victory over suffering is eternally won through righteous living.

### III. THE VICTORY IS IN A LIFE OF SERVICE.



- A. The text: See 1Pet. 4:7-11.
- B. Life is lived in the shadow of eternity. The end could come at any moment (4:7).  
The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober *spirit* for the purpose of prayer.
1. Be steady (sober) in mind.
  2. Have a clear mind so that you can keep on praying.
- C. The power of love is very great (4:8).  
Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.  
“Covers a multitude of sins” means:
1. Our love for others will help us overlook the trespasses against us.
  2. If we love others then God’s love will overlook at multitude of our sins.
  3. God may indeed overlook our sins against Him.
- D. A Xian’s responsibility (4:9-11):  
Be hospitable to one another without complaint. [10] As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. [11] Whoever speaks, *let him speak*, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, *let him do so* as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
1. Be hospitable without complaining.
  2. Use your gifts whether they are speaking or serving.

### IV. THE VICTORY IS IN ONE’S ATTITUDE.



- A. The text: See 1Pet. 4:12-16.
- B. Persecution is inevitable! The Xian’s attitude includes:
1. Knowing that it may be a test of our faith (4:12).  
Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;
  2. Knowing that it allows us to share in the sufferings of X (4:13,14; Phil. 3:10).  
(Phil 3:10) that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;  
(1Pet 4:13-14) but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation. [14] If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.
  3. Knowing that it is the way to glory (4:15,16; Rom. 8:16,17).  
(1Pet 4:15-16) By no means let any of you suffer as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; [16] but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.  
(Rom 8:16-17) The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, [17] and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* in order that we may also be glorified with *Him*.
- C. Verses 17 and 18 are best understood in the historical context of the approaching destruction of Jerusalem. The righteous who heed Jesus words (of Mt. 24) will, with difficulties (sufferings), escape the judgment upon the city. Therefore those who suffer for doing sinful things have no hope!
- D. Therefore suffer so that it is for righteousness sake (4:19; 2:20).  
(1Pet 4:19) Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.  
(1Pet 2:20) For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer *for it* you patiently endure it, this *finds* favor with God.
- E. Verse 4:19 is the theme verse of the entire letter.

### V. CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.



- A. To handle suffering:
1. Be sure you are not living as Gentiles (as you did as a non-Xian).
  2. Live a life of Xian service using your speaking and serving gifts.

3. Have the right attitude know that suffering will come.
  4. Be sure your suffering is for doing good things, and God will reward you.
- B. To those who are suffering because of sin and are not Xians, we beg you to be reconciled to God.
  - C. To those who are suffering because they are Xians, keep doing the things God wants you to do.
  - D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.