

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Peter 4:12-19**.
- B. No one likes to suffer. It makes no difference if the pain is mental, physical, financial or spiritual: nobody likes it.
- C. Yet, suffering is a part of life, even the Xian life. We are not to worry if we suffer for the wrong we do, that is our just penalty, but we are to take glory and joy in the fact that when we suffer for what is right it can be a blessing to help us grow in X.
- D. This lesson is an expository sermon on 1Peter 4:12-19.

I. **FIRST PETER 4:12-4:14.**

- A. Chapter 4, verse 12:
 - 1. The world hated X, before it hated Xians (Jn. 15:18-20).
 - 2. The sword divides Xian against non-Xian (Mt. 10:34-36).
 - 3. One needs to remember that trials are for our benefit (1Pet. 1:7; Jas. 1:2-4).
- B. Chapter 4, verse 13:
 - 1. Basically, X and Xians suffer for the same reason; JC because He claimed to be the Son of God and Xians because they believe that J was the Son of God.
 - 2. Interestingly enough, the more we suffer the more joy we need in our life, and the more joy we should have in our life.
- C. Chapter 4, verse 14:
 - 1. Blessings come to those who suffer for the name of X; earthly suffering results in spiritual happiness.
 - 2. The Spirit of glory and the Spirit of God may be synonymous and it is the Spirit which identifies us as being a Xian.

II. **FIRST PETER 4:15-4:16.**

- A. Chapter 4, verse 15:
 - 1. The last phrase, "troublesome meddler," (KJV says, "a busybody in other men's matters") means that it is probably better, due to the time, to stay clear of the business of outsiders.
 - 2. But Xians have no mercy from God if they suffer for the wrong things. Jesus was glorified because He suffered correctly. Our suffering should follow His (1Pet. 2:20-25).
 - 3. Trials are to be patiently endured, as X patiently endured.
- B. Chapter 4, verse 16:
 - 1. To suffer as a Xian is a good thing, and we are to wear His name, not in the negative but in the positive.
 - 2. The name 'Xian' is good:
 - a. Isaiah 62:2 speaks of a new name for God's children.
 - b. We are baptized into the name of God, JC, and the HS (Mt. 28:19).
 - c. We put on X in baptism, why not His name? (Gal. 3:27).
 - d. The term disciple is not found in the NT as referring to the faithful after Ac. 21:16.
 - e. John used the term disciple 77 times in his gospel account but not once in 1,2,3John or Revelation.
 - 3. Peter says we are to glorify God in that name.

III. **FIRST PETER 4:17-4:19.**

- A. Chapter 4, verse 17:

1. The judgment spoken of here is not the end of the world, but of the destruction about to come upon Jerusalem (1Pet. 4:7).
 2. History tells us, and some scholars believe that Jerusalem was destroyed about 5 years after Peter wrote this epistle.
 3. This passage can, however, be made analogous to the final judgment in that we are to be faithful in the midst of trials.
- B. Chapter 4, verse 18:
This verse mentions the difficulty of the righteous being saved and this also refers to the destruction to come, because the salvation in heaven is abundantly supplied according to 2Pet. 1:11.
- C. Chapter 4, verse 19:
1. Here is the summation of the paragraph, that Xians are to suffer according to the will of God.
 2. Entrusting your soul to God during times of persecution is difficult but needs to be done.
 3. We need to realize the proper course; the persecution is in X, but also is the salvation (Rev. 1:9).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Every Xian who wants to do right, by X, will suffer.
- B. The key is knowing that suffering because of X brings blessings and glory.
- C. And that Xians are to suffer as X suffered (patiently) for the right things. No pity is given on those who choose to do wrong and then suffer for it.
- D. The perseverance (salvation) is in X; obey Him today.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.