

1 Peter

Lesson #17, Chapter 4:12-19

Ask the Lord to give you understanding of His Word and how to apply it in your life. Read all of Chapter 4 in preparation for this lesson.

1. In verses 12-19 Peter returns to the subject he has been developing throughout the book: your salvation must be evident in your life, especially when you are going through suffering and difficulty. His words in 4:12-19 continue to develop the thought from 2:12, *Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.* Explain Peter's train of thought in Chapter 4 keeping in mind the theme of the book and 2:12 as just mentioned.
2. What tender term does Peter use as he tries to encourage the suffering believers (verse 12)?
3. Peter urges the believers not to be surprised at the trials they are facing (verse 12). If they are not to be surprised, then that means they are to _____ trials. Why do we need to be encouraged to maintain that mindset?
4. *Fiery ordeal* may sound like the name of a salsa, but Peter intended to convey something completely different. What does that phrase mean? See also Ps. 66:10; Prov. 27:21; Dan. 11:32-35; 1 Pet. 1:7.
5. Why has this fiery ordeal come upon them according to verse 12? Why is this necessary? See Deut. 8:2, 16; 13:3; Rom. 5:3-5; James 1:2-4; 1 Pet. 1:6-7; 5:10.

6. Why weren't they to think it strange that these things were coming upon them? See Matt. 5:12; 1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Thess. 3:2-4; 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Pet. 4:13; 5:9.

7. What truths about God's sovereignty over the events of your life do you observe in verse 12? How do those truths about God affect you and your understanding of your life's circumstances?

8. Not only were they to expect trials and suffering, but Peter tells them of another attitude they were to maintain according to verse 13. What is it and what reasons are given for having this attitude?

9. What do you learn from the following Scriptures about those who share the sufferings of Christ? See Luke 9:23; Acts 5:41; Rom. 8:16-17; Phil. 3:7-11; 1 Pet. 5:1.

10. What example does Peter give in verse 14 of what it means to share in Christ's sufferings? How does God want you to view your suffering? Why?

11. List at least 3 things you learn about the Holy Spirit from verse 14.

12. See Acts 6:15; 7:54-60; 2 Cor. 12:7-10; 1 Pet. 1:7-8 for some examples of what it means to have the Spirit of glory and of God rest upon you. How does that truth encourage you?

13. Some might be tempted to think that any kind of suffering we go through is blessed by God. What does Peter remind us in verse 15?

14. In contrast to verse 15, what encouragement do we have if we suffer as a Christian in verse 16? What does it mean to suffer as a Christian (verse 16)?

15. Verses 17-18 may cause you alarm unless you remember a few truths we have learned along the way. What kind of judgment does a believer have in this life? See 1 Cor. 11:32 and Heb. 12:5-11.

16. What is the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? See 1 Pet. 2:7-8; Rom. 2:8; 2 Thess. 1:8.

17. F. B. Meyer illustrated the meaning of verse 18 with the following story which was found in his writings: "It was the earnest wish of a holy man that his death might be so triumphant that his unconverted sons might be convinced and attracted by the evident power of the Gospel to sustain and cheer in the dark passage of the valley. Instead of this, to his deep regret, his spirit lay under a cloud; he was oppressed with fear and misgiving; and the enemy was permitted to torment him to the uttermost. But these very facts were the ones which most profoundly impressed his children. "For," said the eldest, "we all know what a good man our father was; and yet see how deep his spiritual sufferings were. What then may we not expect, who have given no thought to the concerns of our souls?" What point is Peter trying to make in verses 17-18? Remember to take into account the issue of a believer's suffering for being a Christian as you formulate your answer.

e. Verse 16:

f. Verse 19:

g. Verse 19:

It cost Christ and all His followers sharp showers and hot sweats ere they won to the top of the mountain. But still our soft nature would have heaven coming to our bedside when we are sleeping, and lying down with us, that we might go to heaven in warm clothes; but all that came there found wet feet by the way, and sharp storms that did take the hide off their face, and found toes and frosts, and ups and downs, and many enemies by the way. ~Samuel Rutherford

If Christ Jesus be the period, the end and lodging-home, at the end of your journey, there is no fear, ye go to a friend...ye may look death in the face with joy. ~Samuel Rutherford

The great Master Gardener, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, in a wonderful provision, with His own hand, planted me here, where by His grace, in this part of His vineyard, I grow; and here I will abide till the great Master of the vineyard think fit to transplant me. ~Samuel Rutherford