

The Church's Blessing

1 Peter 4:12-19

Dr. Heath A. Thomas

President, OBU

Dear friends, don't be surprised when the fiery ordeal comes among you to test you as if something unusual were happening to you. Instead, rejoice as you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may also rejoice with great joy when his glory is revealed. If you are ridiculed for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. Let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or a meddler. But if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed but let him glorify God in having that name. For the time has come for judgment to begin with God's household, and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who disobey the gospel of God? And if a righteous person is saved with difficulty, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner? So then, let those who suffer according to God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator while doing what is good.

(1 Peter 4:12-19, CSB)

The Ubiquity of Testing

Don't be surprised when... (v. 12)

“fiery ordeal...” to “test you...” (v. 12)

The Ubiquity of Testing

Truths about testing...

1. Tests are common
2. Tests are unwanted
3. Tests are difficult
4. Tests refine our faith
5. Tests come with words

The Blessing of Testing

If you are ridiculed for the name of Christ, you are **blessed** (makarios), because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.” -- 1 Peter 4:14 (CSB)

Makarios - “blessed”

“10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs. 11 You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. 12 Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” -- Matthew 5:10 -12 (CSB)

The Blessing of Testing

Truth for us to embrace...

Testing brings blessing.

1. Testing keeps us close to Jesus
2. Testing keeps our eyes on eternity
3. Testing makes us more like Jesus

The Church's Blessing

1 Peter 4:12-19

Dr. Heath A. Thomas

President, OBU