



First Peter Temporary Residents in a Foreign Land

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“Suffering for Being a Christian”

1 Peter 4:12-19

July 7, 2019

Dr. Jeannine Brown

Theme: In this passage, Peter sums up key themes from his letter to Christians in Asia Minor. They should not be surprised by the suffering they are experiencing but are encouraged to see it through the lens of Christ’s own suffering and their participation in it, leading up to their final salvation. This means they can rejoice in suffering and see it as something that brings honor rather than shame. It also means they can trust their faithful Creator and live faithfully in turn.

Outline:

1. Suffering Reframed (4:12-18)

a. Normalizing of Suffering

(1) Peter has been emphasizing that suffering is unusual (3:13-14, 17)

(2) Now (finally!) Peter normalizes their suffering (4:12, 19)

b. The Kind of Suffering to Embrace

(1) Suffering because of “the name of Christ...as a Christian” (4:14, 16)

(2) Not suffering that comes from doing evil (4:15; cf. 2:20)

c. The *Why* of Suffering

(1) The reality of unjust suffering (2:12, 19-20; 3:16-17)

(2) As a kind of testing and proving (4:12; cf. 1:6-7)

(3) As a way of purification (4:1-2)

(4) As participation with Christ's sufferings (*koinōneō*; 4:12)

(5) As a sign of identity and timing (4:17-18)

2. Exhortations When Suffering (4:19)

a. "According to God's will:" Do a double check (for good and not evil; cf. 3:17)

b. Commit yourself to your faithful Creator (cf. 2:23)

c. Continue to do good (cf. 2:11-12, 20; 3:15-17)

Takeaway: *While the 'why' of suffering is complex, the 'how' to live while suffering invites us into self-reflection, trusting in our faithful God, and living out in tangible ways our allegiance to Jesus.*

Next Cove:

July 14, 2019

To the Elders and the Flock & Final Greetings

1 Peter 5:1-14

Jeannine Brown