

I PETER 4; December 17; When Christians Suffer For Christ

ANALYSIS:

1. How are Christians to prepare their mind for suffering?

2. What sins are named here that these saints had been delivered from?

3. Above all things what are we to have among ourselves, and what will it do? _____
4. When will Christians be glad with exceeding joy for having suffered for Christ? _____
5. What two responses should control the person who suffers for Christ?

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Peter has been addressing those who are suffering because they are living as a Christian. But there is comfort here for Christians who live in peaceful times as well. Most people face a good deal of suffering during their life: physical suffering, mental suffering, heart suffering. It is not unusual, in the Providence of God, for many people to suffer in the very way in which they would rather not have to suffer, or go through life being denied the one thing they would rather not be denied. If you can identify with this in some degree, take Peter's exhortation and "commit the keeping of their [your] souls to Him in well doing, as unto a Faithful Creator" (v 19).

Does your present suffering perplex you? Take comfort in the assurance that when God bears down hard in his grinding/refining work, it is that the finished diamond or gold piece [that's you] may be extra bright, beautiful and perfect! "But He knoweth the way that I take; when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10). "Know therefore that the LORD thy God, He is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him..." (Deut 7:9).

HELP:

1. By arming themselves with the same mind Christ had; He chose to suffer in the Father's will, rather than sin (v 1).
2. Lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, abominable idolatries (v 3).
3. Fervent charity, for charity shall cover a multitude of sins (v 8).
4. When Christ's glory shall be revealed (v 13).
5. Let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God on this behalf as they commit their souls to a faithful Creator (vs 16, 19).