

W @ K L J P r a J @ r J O u r n a l

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

“Sharing In Christ’s Sufferings”

1 Peter 4:12-14

JUNE 17 – JUNE 23, 2007

THE LORD'S DAY –This week we return to our study in **1 Peter**. The next several verses of this Epistle deal with the subject of Suffering for God’s glory. We will look at several truths that pertain to this topic of “suffering” as Christians. This is not a very popular thing to discuss but as we will see it is a very important topic for Christians to hear and understand as it is addressed throughout the Scriptures and The Holy Spirit saw it necessary for us. Read **1 Peter 4:12-14**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Ask God to teach you from His Word this week.

MONDAY –Peter begins **verse 12** by addressing his readers as “*Beloved*”. This term conveys a tender compassion and affection by this Apostle and Pastor. As John MacArthur has said, “Such love provides a sweet pillow for believers’ weary souls to rest on in the midst of trials and persecutions”. We as believers in Jesus Christ sometimes expect life to be full of blessing, and benefits. But Jesus and Scripture are very clear that we are to expect suffering as followers of Jesus. Christ Himself told those who would embrace the gospel message to “*count the cost*” (**Luke 14:28-32**). We must understand that in this hostile, fallen world we are to expect trouble and suffering to some degree. Read **John 15:18, 2 Timothy 3:12, 1 John 3:13**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Ask God to help you understand Christ’s words that we will experience suffering if we live to please Him and ask Him for His strength to endure and glorify Him in spite of it.

TUESDAY –The next phrase reminds us of the theme from yesterday. Peter states, “...*do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial...*” He is telling us that we are not to be surprised at all that the gospel of Christ will be offensive to many people and it will sometimes produce persecution when it is given and lived in front of the eyes of sinful, Christ rejecting

Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITTAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)	Lord's Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

M a t t h @ W 6: 9-13

men. As the old saying goes, “this world is no friend of grace”. As children of God, it is inevitable that when we are obedient to God’s Word and declare it to others, we will sometimes find animosity. Peter emphasizes this point later in the verse when he uses a related Greek word by telling us not to see this “fiery trial” as “some *strange thing*” that is happening to us. Remember, the world is lost and blind to the things of Christ. Read **2 Corinthians 2:15-16, 4:1-6**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Pray that God would help you to proclaim His gospel with power and compassion regardless of how it is received by others.*

WEDNESDAY –In **verse 13** we are told that we should “...rejoice, to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings...” Peter says that we “partake” or share in Christ’s suffering. This does not in any way suggest that we share in the suffering of Jesus as He suffered for our redemption on the cross but rather it speaks of us experiencing the same kind of sufferings he endured for living and doing what is right. Paul the Apostle summed up this very thought when he said, “Yes, and all who desire to live Godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution” (**2 Timothy 3:12**). This type of suffering (suffering in doing right) is something we are to “rejoice” in. This word means to “rejoice, be exceedingly glad”. This is precisely what Jesus Himself taught us. Read **Matthew 5:10-12**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Dear God, help me to live right as Jesus did, and then when persecuted for it, may I learn to rejoice as You have commanded.*

THURSDAY –We find also in **verse 13** that there is the promise that those who suffer like Jesus did or “share in His sufferings” will also share in His glory; Peter says it this way: “...that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy”. We are told that when Christ returns we will rejoice with “exceeding joy” which means literally “to exalt”. There will be exaltation for those who share in Christ’s sufferings. Peter is saying there will be great and everlasting reward for those, who like Jesus suffer for righteousness. This should serve as a great reminder and motivation to us as believers to not “faint and grow weary” in the persecution that comes upon us since we understand it will bring eternal reward. Our suffering here helps to refine us. Paul spoke of this when he said our affliction works for us “an eternal weight of glory”. We are to have this perspective as we face any

suffering that comes before us in this life for doing what is right and Christ like. Read **2 Corinthians 4:16-18, James 1:2-4**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Pray that you would have this eternal perspective of knowing that the sufferings of this life serve to refine us and conform us to the image of Your Son, Jesus Christ.*

FRIDAY –We are reminded in **verse 14** that “If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you...” There is benefit and blessing for those who would be upbraided and reviled “for the name of Christ”. His “name” refers to who Jesus is and all that He represents. We are blessed when we live in accordance with the name of Jesus and when we are insulted or treated wrongly as His representatives as we proclaim the name of Christ. This is what Peter himself exemplified for us in **Acts 4** when he proclaimed, “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved”. The question for us is; are we living and proclaiming the name of Christ and therefore receiving unjust persecution? Read **Acts 4:18-20, 5:41, 9:16**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *God, please help me to live and proclaim the name of Jesus Christ everyday of my life here on earth. Thank You for the promise of blessing in suffering for Your Son.*

SATURDAY –We saw yesterday that it is the “name” of Jesus that offends the ungodly. But in contrast we remember that God the Father said that He was and is “well pleased” with His Son. Peter tells us in **verse 14** that when we proclaim Christ and suffer for Him “the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you”. When we suffer for Jesus, the very presence of God rests upon us and gives us strength to endure in a way that goes beyond any human understanding. We are supernaturally relieved and carried in the midst of our suffering for Jesus. May we take time today to examine whether or not we are living in such a way as to experience this mighty work of God. Read **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *God, help us to live and suffer in such a way as to experience Your mighty power resting upon us, giving us Your strength.*