

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

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

“Suffering According to the Will of God”

1 Peter 4:15-19

JULY 1 – JULY 7, 2007

THE LORD'S DAY –This week we close out **chapter 4** of **1 Peter**. The Apostle finishes up his teaching concerning suffering and specifically here summarizes by speaking to the fact of suffering as a Christian and suffering *“according to the will of God”*. There are many valuable truths that I pray we will glean and apply from this passage. Read our text for this week: **1 Peter 4:15-19**.

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 starts out in **verse 15** by telling us how **NOT** to suffer. He specifically warns us against doing things that would cause us to suffer or that would lead to persecution that is not honoring to God. He tells us we should not fall into suffering from being *“a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody (meddler) in other people’s matters”*. The first several things listed here refer to crimes which are fairly obvious to us. The last phrase warning us of being a *“busybody”* (meddler) is the Greek word allotriepiskopos which means “one who takes the supervision of affairs pertaining to others and in no wise to himself”. This phrase reminds us that Christians are never to be troublemakers in society; this includes political activism and civil agitation that disrupts and interferes with the smooth function of government. Read **1 Thessalonians 4:11, 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12, 1 Timothy 2:1-3**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: Pray that God would help you not to be doing things that cause unnecessary suffering and bring dishonor to Him.

TUESDAY –Expounding a bit further from yesterday’s point, we need to understand our primary purpose and “calling” in this life. It is not to straighten out politics and reform government but it is to live and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is precisely what Peter now says in **verse 16** when he tells us, *“Yet, if anyone suffers as a Christian...”* So much

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

could be said in reference to this. The term “*Christian*” is what followers of Christ were called in early New Testament times. This definition has continued through the years to describe those who are believers in Jesus. Did Jesus go about trying to reform the government and meddle in their affairs? The answer is an obvious “no”. Jesus submitted Himself to the God ordained authorities, paid His taxes (**Matthew 17:24-27**) and set us an example of how to live. His purpose was to “seek and to save the lost” and He suffered not for sinning but rather for calling people to repent of their sin and turn to Him for forgiveness. Read **Acts 11:26, 1 Peter 2:18-25**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: Ask God to help you to follow the example of Jesus and to live as a “Christian” (little Christ) and to spread the Gospel message.

WEDNESDAY –As we live as Jesus did and spread the gospel message to others we will find that persecution and suffering will inevitably come. Peter tells when it does we are not to be “*ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter*”. We are to praise God that He has given us the privilege to suffer for His Name. God is honored and glorified when we suffer for obeying Him and being like His Son Jesus Christ. This is so simple and yet so profound. Furthermore, we must understand this is by God’s decree and design. The word “*matter*” (from the NKJV) is the Greek word *meros* which means “a part due or assigned to one, lot, destiny”. God has ordained that believers who are like His Son Jesus will suffer and should glorify Him in it. Read **Acts 5:40-42, Ephesians 2:10**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: Meditate today on the great privilege God has given to us to suffer for Him. Ask Him to help you be faithful to obey His Word and not to be ashamed of what the world may say or do to you.

THURSDAY –In **verse 17**, Peter explains the purging work of God in His people and the chastening work of Jesus Christ as He purifies His church. This is not speaking of eternal condemnation but it is saying that God chastens His people (“*those He loves*”—**Hebrews 12:5-8**). As believers our sin and condemnation was dealt with on the cross where Jesus took God’s wrath against us on Himself (**Romans 8:1**), but God still disciplines His children as a loving Father. He chastens us to cleanse us and purify us. Peter’s point is that if God chastens His own redeemed children for their sin by such painful measures, what will He do to the ungodly world that rejects Him and the gospel? Read **1 Corinthians 11:32, 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: Thank God that in Christ He brought you into fellowship with Himself; thank Jesus for bearing the wrath you deserved. And thank God that He loves you enough to discipline you as His child.

FRIDAY –Peter quotes **Proverbs 11:31** from the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament) in **verse 18**. He is expounding on the point we looked at yesterday that God does chasten His own and this chastening can be severe and painful. Peter is saying that the ungodly’s eternal suffering is far greater than the godly’s temporal suffering by comparison. This verse also illustrates the truth that it was with great difficulty and pain that Christ endured God’s wrath in order to bring sinful, rebellious man into peace and fellowship with Holy God. This difficulty is explained by **Albert Barnes** when he says, “There was but one way in which it could be done. But what human wisdom could have devised that, or thought of it? There was but one being who could save. But who would have supposed that the Son of God would have been willing to become a man, and to die on a cross to do it? If he had been unwilling to come and die, the righteous could not have been saved.” Read **Ephesians 1:3-14**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: Thank God today for His eternal plan of salvation and thank The Lord Jesus Christ for His willingness to come and be the sacrifice for your sin and make peace with God possible.

SATURDAY –Peter summarizes this portion by reminding us that when we “*suffer according to the will of God*” we are to “*commit our souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful creator*”. We must understand that even suffering is “*the will of God*”. The word “*commit*” is a banking term which means “to deposit, to entrust”. We are to deposit our souls into the hands of the faithful creator God. Who better to entrust with your soul than the One who made everything? Regardless of what befalls us in this life we are to rest our souls in God and His power and purpose which are perfect. Our business is to be “*doing good*” and then leave the results to God who can always be trusted. Read **Romans 8:31-39**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: God, help me to be busy in obeying You and Your Word and help me even in time of difficulty to entrust myself to Your care. Glory and Praise to You Almighty Father who alone is all wise!