



Rice Memorial MBC

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A Suffering People

Definitions printed in **bold** letters are from
Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition,
or Roget's Thesaurus – **November 15, 2009**

1 Peter 4:12-19

Introduction: Sin not only causes man to suffer; it also causes many people to **desire** to inflict suffering on others, especially on those whose **lives** and witness **convict** them of their **sin**.

Scripture does not say we are to seek-out suffering or **enjoy** it somehow for its sake, but it does open some unexpected vistas (views) on the subject. For example, the Apostle Paul spoke of seeking to experience “the **fellowship** of Christ's sufferings” (Phil. 3:10).

Source: The Bible Expositor and Illuminator, Union Press Publication- Christian Life Series

Philippians 3:10-11, That I may **know** him, and the **power** of his resurrection, and the **fellowship** of his **sufferings**, being made conformable unto his **death**; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

NOTE: *And the fellowship of his sufferings...* either his personal **sufferings**, and so signifies a **sharing in**, and a **participation** of the **benefits** arising from them; such as reconciliation for sin, peace with God, pardon, righteousness, nearness to God... or the **sufferings** of his members for him, and with him, and which Christ reckons his own: these the apostle was **willing** to take his part in, and lot of, **knowing**, that those that are **partakers** of his **sufferings** in this sense, shall **reign** with him, and be **glorified** (*honored*) together. What the Jews **deprecated** (*prayed against; deeply regretted*), the apostle was desirous of; namely, sharing in the **sorrows** and **sufferings** of the **Messiah**, and which they reckon the greatest happiness to be delivered from. But our apostle **rejoiced** in his **sufferings** for Christ, and was desirous of filling up the afflictions of Christ in his flesh, for his body's sake, the church...

Source: The New John Gill Exposition of the Entire Bible

1 Peter 4:12-14, Beloved, think it not **strange** concerning the fiery **trial** which is to try you, as though some **strange** thing happened unto you: But **rejoice**, inasmuch as ye are **partakers** of Christ's **sufferings**; that, when his **glory** shall be revealed, ye may be **glad** also with exceeding **JOY**. If ye be **reproached** for the name of Christ, **HAPPY** (*fortunate*) are ye; for the spirit of **glory** (*honour*) and of God **resteth** (*remain*) upon you: on their part he is **evil** spoken of, but on your part he is **glorified** (*honour, magnify*).

Thought 1. Peter is in the process of conveying to these Christians what he **learned** from Jesus in reference to **persecutions**. Jesus said they should **rejoice** because of the **reward!**

Matthew 5:11, **Blessed** (*fortunate*) are ye, when men shall revile you ...**PERSECUTE** you, and shall say all manner of evil against you **falsely**, for **my** sake.

Persecute defined 1377, to **pursue** (*lit. or fig.*) by impl. to persecute.

Persecute, 1. to **pursue** in a manner to injure, vex or afflict; to harass with unjust punishment or penalties for supposed offenses; to inflict pain from hatred or malignity (venom). 2. to afflict, harass, or destroy (kill) for adherence to a particular creed (belief) or system of religious principles, or to a mode of worship.

Matthew 5:12, Rejoice, and be exceeding **glad:** for great is your **REWARD** in heaven: for so **PERSECUTED** they the prophets which were before you.

Thought 2. Did you notice **at what** we should be **looking** (gazing) when we **suffer** for being right, and doing right? We should **NOT** be gazing at how we're being **mistreated!** We should be gazing at the **reward** our Father has **for** us.

Acts 5:41-42 ...and when they had called the **apostles,** and **BEATEN** them, they commanded that they should **not speak** in the name of Jesus, and let them go. And they departed from the presence of the council, **rejoicing** that they were **counted worthy** to **SUFFER shame (dishonor)** for his name.

1 Peter 2:17-20, For this is thankworthy, if a man for **conscience toward God** endure **grief, suffering wrongfully.** For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye **do well,** and **suffer** for it, ye **take it PATIENTLY,** this is **acceptable (pleasure, joy) with (IN) God.**

Take it patiently defined 5278, have fortitude (bear pain or adversity without **murmuring,** depression or despondency [hopelessness]).
Murmuring, uttering complaints in a low voice or **SULLEN** (gloomily angry and silent; sour; affected with ill humor) manner

Psalms 147:11, The **LORD** taketh **pleasure** (joy) in them that **FEAR** him...

1 Peter 2:21-23, For even hereunto were ye **called:** because **Christ** also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who **did no sin,** neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was **REVILED,** reviled not again; when he **suffered,** he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously...

Reviled defined 3058, to reproach (to treat with scorn or contempt.), **i.e. vilify:-- revile** (treated with opprobrious [containing low indecency or abuse; mean; foul; **obscenely** jocular: MERRY] or contemptuous language).

Luke 23:11 ...Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and **mocked** him...

Thought 3. As you can see, **IF** we **gaze** at the persecution, we won't have **JOY!** This is why Hebrews tells us **at what** we should, and should **not** be **gazing** and **thinking** on.

Hebrews 12:2-3, Looking unto **Jesus** the author and finisher of our **FAITH;** who for the **JOY** that was set before **HIM** **endured** the cross, **despising (think against.)** the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For **consider** (gaze, think on) him that **endured** such contradiction of **sinner**s against himself, lest ye be **wearied** and **faint** (to lose courage, weaken) in your **minds.**

Thought 4. Moreover, if we don't know **WHY** persecution comes, it'll mess with our **minds** about even **staying with** Jesus and having to **"go through all of this hell!"**

John 15:18-23, If the world **hate** you, ye **know** it hated me **BEFORE** it **hated** you. If ye were **OF** the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are **not** of the **world,** but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore (*for this reason*) the world hateth you. **Remember** the word that I said unto you, The **servant** is **not** greater than his **lord.** If (since) they have **persecuted** me, they **WILL** also persecute you...

But **ALL** these things will they **do** unto you for my **name's** sake, because they **know NOT him** that sent me. If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: **but** now they have no cloke for their **SIN.**

John 16:1, These things have I **spoken** unto you, that **YE** should **not** be **OFFENDED.**

Offended defined 4624, to entrap, trip up (fig. stumble [tran.] or entice to sin, apostasy or displeasure [dissatisfaction, gnawing grief, sorrow]).

Apostasy, 1. the renunciation of a religious FAITH 2. an abandonment of what one has professed: a total desertion, or departure from one's FAITH or religion.

Thought 5. In John 16:1, Jesus reveals **Satan's purpose** for the suffering he's bringing into the life of **Christians!** He lost us to Jesus; and he wants us back! He also knows that if we don't have SKILL in using God's word, he'll get it done! Furthermore, he knows if we **leave** (depart, renounce faith in) **Jesus**, it is **impossible** to get us to **repent** and go **back** to him! That means if we renounce our faith in him and go back into **unbelief**, our names are **erased from** the **book of life**, and we're **doomed** to spend eternity in the lake of fire.

Matthew 13:20-21, But he that received the seed into **stony places**, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with **joy** receiveth it;. Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth **for a while**: for when **tribulation** or **persecution** ariseth **because** of the **word**, by and by he is **offended (4624, trip up, apostasy [renunciation of faith].).**

Luke 8:13, They on the **rock** are they, which, when they hear, **receive** the WORD with joy; and these have **no root**, which **for a while** **BELIEVE**, And in time of **temptation (experience of evil)** **FALL AWAY**.

Fall Away defined 868, desert (leave permanently), withdraw self.

Hebrews 6:4-6, For it is **impossible** for those who were ONCE **enlightened**, ...have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost ...have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall **fall away**, to **renew** them **again** unto repentance...

Revelation 3:5, He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not **blot out (erase)** his name **OUT of** the **book of life**, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Revelation 20:15, And whosoever was **not** found written in the **book of life** was cast into the **lake of fire**.

Thought 6. The bottom line is those who **desire** to **live godly IN** Jesus **cannot out RUN** Persecution! This truth is what Paul shared with Timothy in order to strengthen him.

2 Timothy 3:10-12, But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, **Persecutions**, afflictions, which came unto **me** at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I **endured**: but **OUT** of them **ALL** the Lord delivered me. Yea, and **ALL** that **will (desire)** live **godly** in Christ Jesus **shall (not must)** **SUFFER** persecution.

1 Peter 4:15-16, But let **none** of you **suffer** as a **murderer**, or as a **thief**, or as an **evildoer**, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man SUFFER as a **Christian**, let him not be **ashamed**; but let him **glorify (magnify [praise])** God on this behalf.

Thought 1. As we discussed, we have to **think against** the **shame**, looking **to** the **reward!**

1 Peter 4:17-19, For the time is come that **judgment** must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey **not** the gospel of God? And if the righteous **scarcely** (scantly: narrowly) be **saved**, where shall the ungodly and the **sinner** appear? Wherefore let them that **SUFFER** according to the **will of God** **commit** the **keeping** of their souls to him in **well doing**, as unto a faithful Creator.

Thought 1. We are **narrowly** saved because **faith** IN Jesus is the ONLY way to be saved!