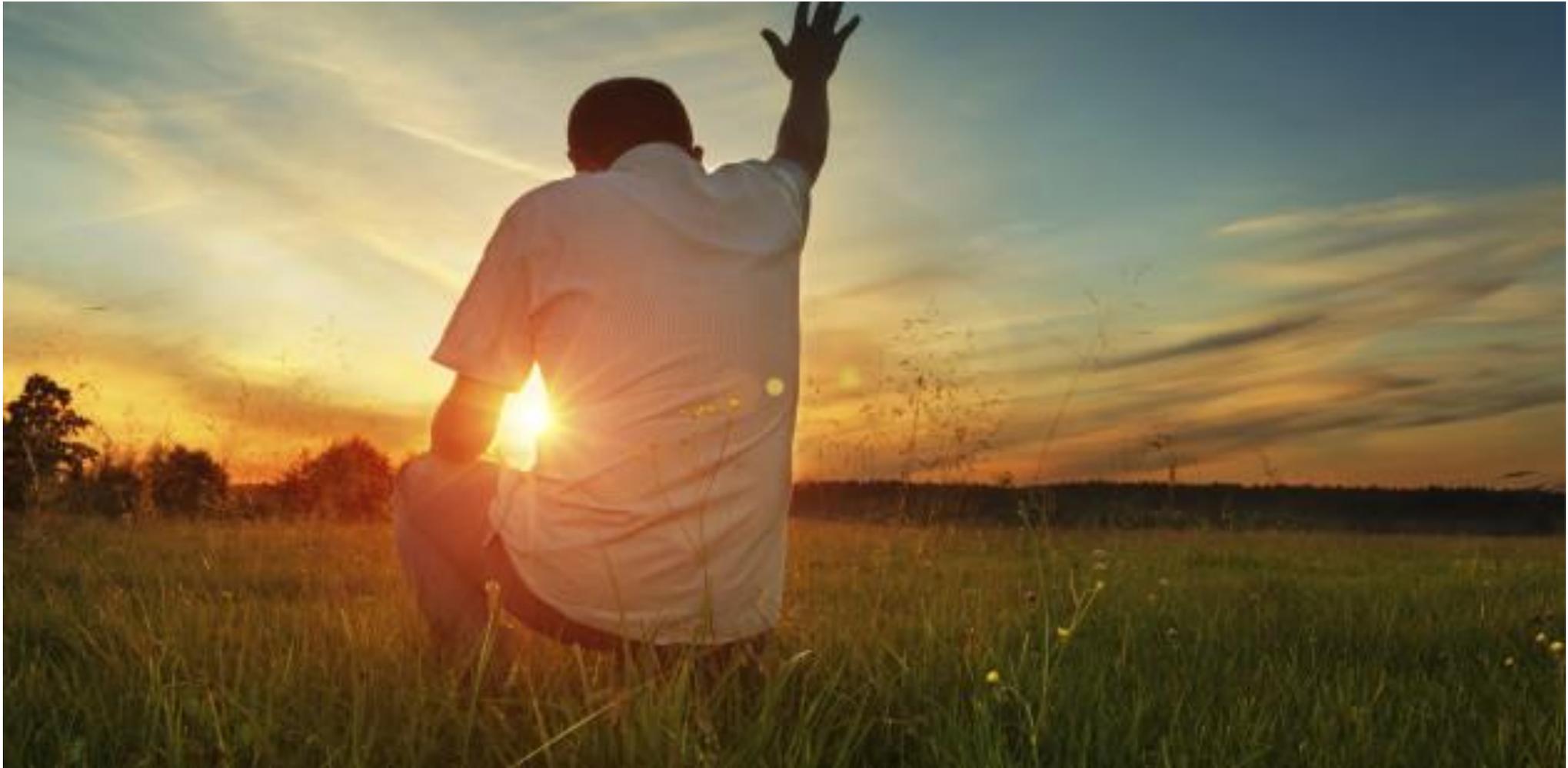


I Peter 4:12-19

Suffering with a Blessing



- When people treat us badly, we are surprised, why do this to me?
- When we face persecution, it is normal to be sad and depressed, it is normal to be ashamed
- Peter says, no don't act like that, as a Christian act differently



I. Don't be Surprised Vs. 12



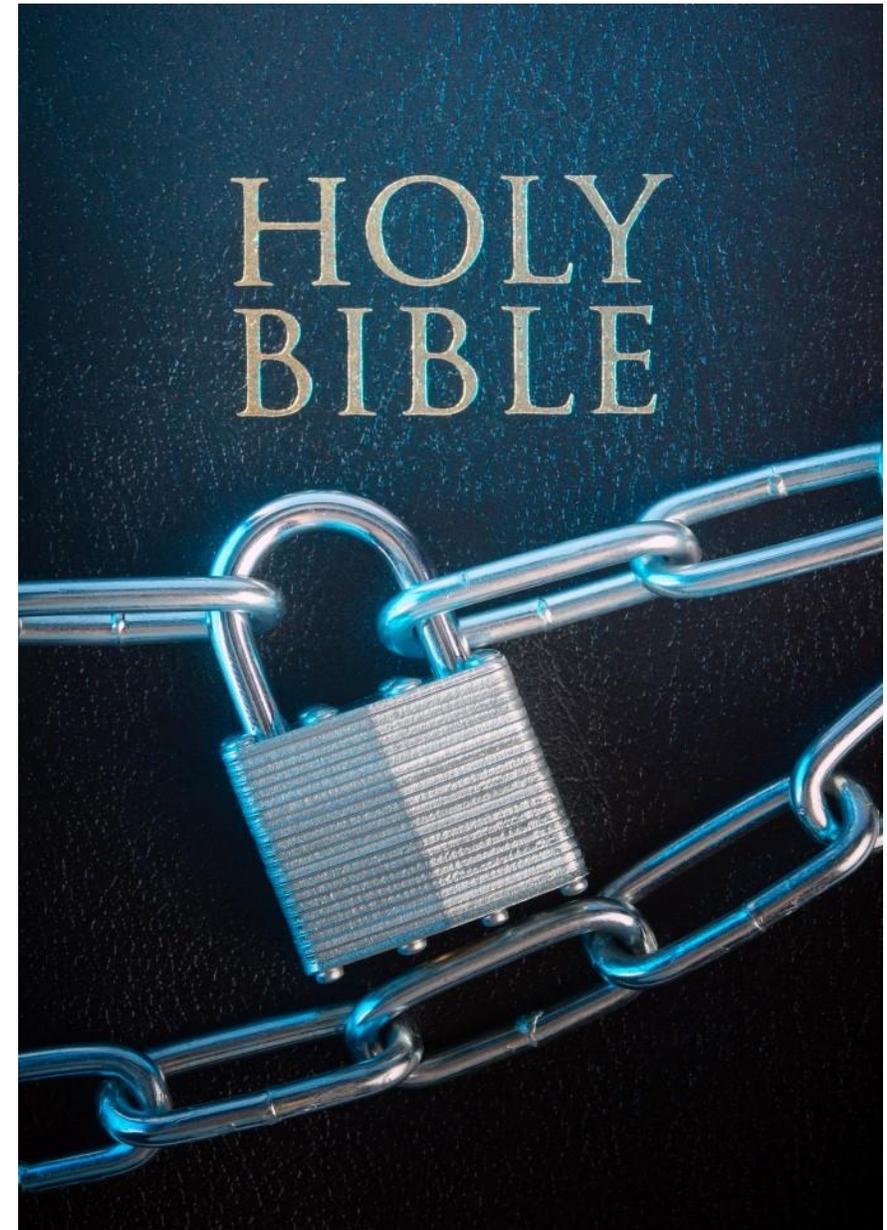
- People in the Roman Empire worshipped many gods
- The Greek and Roman gods were mixed together
- Zeus, Apollo, Athena, Artemis and many others



- But then, along came this new religion, Christianity
- A Jewish man named Jesus taught a new way
- And then he was crucified but rose from the dead
- His followers started to spread the message of forgiveness from God



- Today, in America persecution is starting to happen
- The American culture does not like Christians because of the morality that Christians are living



- The Bible clearly teaches that Christians will suffer
- Jesus taught it and Peter and Paul taught it
- And the reason that Christians suffer is because we have a spiritual enemy, the Devil.



II. Rejoice in Suffering Vs. 13-15



Jesus taught this first in Matthew 5:11,12

*Blessed are you when people insult you,
persecute you and falsely say all kinds of
evil against you because of me.*

*Rejoice and be glad because great is your
reward in heaven.*

*For in the same way they persecuted the
prophets who were before you.*

- Those who suffer for being Christians are rewarded by God. The suffering is temporary, the rewards are eternal. If you are a Christian and you suffer for being a Christian, then you are identifying with Jesus and his suffering



- People of the world do not want to hear that there is a moral law
- So they will try to silence the Christian
- The religious leaders wanted to silence Jesus



- We think that persecution is getting beaten, whipped or killed
- But persecution can be getting insulted, made fun of, or verbal attacks, and when that happens, we are blessed by God. The spirit of glory and God rests on you



III. Don't be Ashamed Vs. 16



- Those who are persecuted are the shunned in society
- People look down on them and they are despised
- No one talks to them, no one associates with them
- Because they don't want to be persecuted



- But Peter says, don't feel ashamed
- You are suffering for the right person-Jesus
- You are on the side of God, there is nothing to be ashamed of. God, the judge of the earth is blessing you



IV. Judgment Here or There? Vss 17-19



- A loving father disciplines and corrects his children
- He wants them to go through some difficult times so they grow. He doesn't make their life easy; that isn't what life is about.



- God the Father disciplines his children
- We will go through some hard times here on this earth
- It would be like a fire that refines the gold and makes it pure



- And if judgement begins with Christians, what will happen to those who don't know Jesus as their Savior?
- It won't be good for them
- Their judgement is eternal, it is a life in Hell separated from God



- *Commit yourself to the faithful creator-God*
- He is your father and he will see you through whatever trouble you are facing
- It doesn't make the persecution go away
- It does help you focus on God the Father
- *And continue to do good*



- We have seen this persecution recently in China
- Crosses have been taken off churches
- Pastors have been jailed
- You do have to count the cost to be a Christian in China



Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right

Así pues, los que sufren porque Dios así lo quiere, sigan haciendo el bien y entréguense a su Creador, porque él es fiel

Basi wao wateswao kwa mapenzi ya Mungu na wamwekee amana roho zao, katika kutenda mema, kama kwa Muumba mwaminifu

因此，那些照着神的旨意受苦的人，要藉着行善把自己的灵魂交托给那位信实的造物主

Nítorí náà, ẹ jẹ kí àwọ̀n tí ń jìyà gégẹ́ bí ifẹ́ Ọlórún ni ẹ́sẹ́ rere, fi ọkàn wọ̀n lẹ́ Ẹlédàá olótító lówó

Сонымен, Құдайдың еркі бойынша азап шегіп жүрген сендер, жандарыңды әрдайым уәдесін орындайтын Жаратушыға сеніп тапсырыңдар, әрі игі істер жасай беріңдер

I Peter 4:12-19 Suffering with a Blessing

Peter is telling us to act differently when we face suffering
When people treat us badly, we are surprised, why do this to me?
When we face persecution, it is normal to be sad and depressed,
it is normal to be ashamed

Peter says, no don't act like that, as a Christian act differently
Because you are blessed if you face this suffering

I. Don't be Surprised Vs. 12

Most people join a religion without any troubles
People in the Roman Empire worshipped many gods
The Greek and Roman gods were mixed together
Zeus, Apollo, Athena, Artemis and many others
And it was accepted, normal for these gods to be worshipped
These gods of wine, war and parties were a part of their lives
So they wanted to worship these gods
But then, along came this new religion, Christianity
A Jewish man named Jesus taught a new way
And then he was crucified but rose from the dead
His followers started to spread the message of forgiveness from God
The way to have eternal life is through believing in Jesus
This new religion to have a relationship with God was different
from all other religions of the Roman empire
Many people became followers of Jesus
But did they know that Romans would not like this new religion?
And severe persecution started to happen in the 60s AD
Today, in America persecution is starting to happen
The American culture does not like Christians because of the
morality that Christians are living
And so in my lifetime, I have seen a slow and progressive anti-Christian
attitude come in America. It will not get better
And because people in America like comfort and no problems
There are Christians that are saying things like:
I do not like the suffering part of being a Christian
There are false teachers that say you can have health and wealth
if you become a Christian
The Bible clearly teaches that Christians will suffer

Jesus taught it and Peter and Paul taught it
And the reason that Christians suffer is because we have a spiritual
enemy, the Devil. He is in control of the people who aren't Christians
And he hates God and the Christians, who are God's people
Satan uses the people of the earth to persecute Christians

II. Rejoice in Suffering Vs. 13-15

Jesus taught this first in Matthew 5:11,12

*Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely
say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be
glad because great is your reward in heaven. For in the same
way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

Those who suffer for being Christians are rewarded by God
The suffering is temporary, the rewards are eternal
If you are a Christian and you suffer for being a Christian,
then you are identifying with Jesus and his suffering
Christians suffer by speaking the truth of God's Word
The world does not like to hear about the morality of the Bible
We are not telling them to live according to the Bible
Although there are some things in the Bible that are laws
Do not kill, do not steal, do not commit adultery
People are punished or divorced for doing these things
People of the world do not want to hear that there is a moral law
So they will try to silence the Christian
The religious leaders wanted to silence Jesus
And so there is a bond between the teacher and the student
And you will be overjoyed when his glory is revealed
Jesus' glory is when he comes again to the earth
At that time, there will be no more suffering for the Christian
And when a Christian dies, there is no more suffering
With the 2nd coming of Jesus, He will be ruler
And all those who persecuted Christians will be punished
We think that persecution is getting beaten, whipped or killed
But persecution can be getting insulted, made fun of, or
verbal attacks, and when that happens, we are blessed by God
The spirit of glory and God rests on you
That sounds very spiritual, and it is, but it's not mysterious
It is that God is with you, his presence is closer than you have

ever felt. And the God of all comfort is resting on you

That is a great blessing

If you suffer, don't suffer for the wrong reasons

If you do a crime and suffer, you deserve it

But when a Christian suffers for Jesus, he is blessed

III. Don't be Ashamed Vs. 16

Those who are persecuted are the shunned in society

People look down on them and they are despised

No one talks to them, no one associates with them

Because they don't want to be persecuted

And so it is natural to feel shame

But Peter says, don't feel ashamed

You are suffering for the right person-Jesus

You are on the side of God, there is nothing to be ashamed of

God, the judge of the earth is blessing you

And so we rejoice and entrust our lives to God

You have done nothing wrong and everything right

IV. Judgement Here or There? Vss 17-19

A loving father disciplines and corrects his children

He wants them to go through some difficult times so they grow

He doesn't make their life easy; that isn't what life is about

He wants to see his children grow up to be responsible adults

God the Father disciplines his children

We will go through some hard times here on this earth

It would be like a fire that refines the gold and makes it pure

God never promised a perfect life and no problems

That isn't life

We can call it judgement here on earth, or discipline

But it is temporary, it is only while on this earth

And if judgement begins with Christians, what will happen to those

who don't know Jesus as their Savior?

It won't be good for them

Their judgement is eternal, it is life in Hell separated from God

And the righteous who are God's people,

if it is difficult for them to be saved

God paid the price for our sins, Jesus died on the cross for us

Jesus said that few will enter the kingdom of God

People accept Jesus by faith

It was difficult for God, It is a little difficult to come to faith

Then what will happen to the ungodly and sinner?

Peter is giving a rhetorical question

A question that we do not give an answer to, but we know the answer

The sinner will be separated from God in Hell

That is the worst way to spend eternity

So if you are a believer in Jesus, this is what you should do

Commit yourself to the faithful creator-God

He is your father and he will see you through whatever

trouble you are facing

It doesn't make the persecution go away

It does help you focus on God the Father

And continue to do good

Don't give up and say it's no good being a good person

God sees and God knows

May those who make trouble for you be ashamed

You are innocent of any wrongdoing

We have seen this persecution recently in China

Crosses have been taken off churches

Pastors have been jailed

Children under the age of 18 are not allowed to get

religious training

You do have to count the cost to be a Christian in China

But even with this persecution, it is estimated that there are

67 million Christians in China

The Chinese government needs to take a lesson from history

From the 60s AD and for at least 200 years in ancient Rome

there was severe persecution of Christians

People died for their faith and yet the Christian numbers grew

Where there is persecution, Christianity grows

So Christianity will grow even more in China