



How to be triumphant when suffering for Christ

Sunday, Feb. 21st, 2010, 1 Peter 4:12-19, ¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; ¹³ but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ By no means let any of you suffer as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; ¹⁶ but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God. ¹⁷ For *it is* time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what *will be* the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER? ¹⁹ Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

Introduction: The church under persecution. Acts 41:3; 5:17-18; 16:19-25, Rev. 2:8-11

- **How do we overcome the opposition? How do we triumphant when suffering for doing what is right? –v. 16....suffer as a Christian; v. 19...suffer according to the will of God; 1 Pet. 4:1-11. – Arm yourself...**
- **What are some attitudes necessary to be triumphant? What is God's divine plan that will stand up to the most intense persecution?**

1. As we walk in obedience to the Lord expect suffering, it is part of God's sovereign plan. v. 12; Heb. 12:3-11; Jn 15:1-2; Eph. 6:10-20

- **Why?** To test us, teaches us to depend on the Lord more, strengthens us, and it attracts others to us.

2. As we walk in obedience to the Lord keep on rejoicing in persecution. v.13; Phil. 4:4; Acts 16:25

- **How can we keep on rejoicing in the midst of suffering?**
Acts 5:41; Matt. 5:11-12; Ex. 33:15-34:9

3. As we walk in obedience to the Lord keep evaluating the cause of our suffering? 16-18; Eph. 4:17-5:5

- Am I suffering as a Christian? (follower of Christ)
- Am I suffering by submitting to the purifying work of God?

4. As we walk in obedience to the Lord keep entrusting our soul to our faithful Creator. V.19; 1 Pet. 2:21-25