



# 1 PETER 4:17-19

Trusting God's Purposes for Suffering



# JUDGMENT STARTS WITH THE CHURCH (4:17)

- “*For*” – suffering should not cause shame, because God is at work in all that comes our way.
- “...*it is time for judgment to begin...*” – the New Covenant period is called the last days
- Local church (i.e. “*household of God*”)
  - It should come as no surprise that many among us are experiencing God’s judgement and refinement.
    - 1 Timothy 3:14–15
  - The message of gospel hope is not powerful when the witnesses have unrepentant sin and selfishness.
  - We show we are serious about maturing in the faith when the areas of our lives that need transformation are acknowledged through confession to God and others.
  - It can be challenging and tough to go through the refining fires of suffering and affliction.
  - But when the hammer of God’s judgment falls on all those rejecting their need of gospel grace, it will be swift, devastating and eternal.

# FOLLOWERS OF JESUS EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTY IN LIFE AND UNBELIEVERS EXPERIENCE ETERNAL DAMNATION (4:18)

- Proverbs 11:31
- The proverb indicates that righteous people experience judgment on earth when they are wrong and need correction.
- In time, the standard of truth will be applied to the wicked and the sinner and they will reap the judgment of condemnation.
- The idea is not that God scarcely saves His people, but that their salvation comes with great trial and tribulation.
  - Acts 14:20–22
- The children of God are **being saved** (progressive sanctification) through the refinement that comes with suffering and affliction.
  - Matthew 7:13–14

# SURRENDERING TO GOD'S REFINING PURPOSES WILL ALLOW SPIRITUAL BEAUTY BLOSSOM (4:19)

*"Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will"*

- There is divine purpose in all that the children of God suffer.
  - It cleanses and purges His people from sin and selfishness.
  - It strengthens and matures His children as they learn to abide in the truth.
  - It creates a powerful opportunity to bear witness of God's unfailing grace and sovereign wisdom and is heard and seen by fellow believers and those outside the life of the gospel.
    - Ephesians 1:11–12

# SURRENDERING TO GOD'S REFINING PURPOSES WILL ALLOW SPIRITUAL BEAUTY BLOSSOM (4:19)

*“entrust their souls to a faithful Creator”*

- Who can objectively look at Creation and not see incredible intelligence, wisdom, structure and beauty.
  - Psalm 19:1–4
  - Without the purging and reshaping judgment of the earth during the flood, the varied landscape that awe us today would not be in existence.
  - Out of overwhelming judgment breathtaking beauty has been shaped.
    - Ephesians 2:8–10

*“while doing good.”*

- Our hearts must surrender to doing good.
  - John 4:23–24
- God is at work and we are instructed to fall in line and pursue what we know is right and true.
  - 1 Peter 3:17



## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- How can you learn to overcome being surprised by the refining fires of God's correcting grace?
- How should the knowledge of God's condemnation of the wicked impact you?
- What needs to be going on in your heart as you surrender to your Creator as you go through various trials?



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