

Intimacy Through Suffering

1 Peter 4:12-19

A. Context: Pilgrims of True Hope

1. Peter identifies his audience as pilgrims, aliens, or exiles; this is to remind them that their citizenship is not _____, but with Christ in God. (1 Peter 1:1-2)
2. The entire premise of Peter's first letter is how believers are _____ to a different way of living because their hope and foundation is out of this world. (1 Peter 4:1-6)

B. Finding intimacy with Christ through suffering requires us to be _____ in our thinking. v.12-14

1. Peter lovingly encourages his fellow believers that _____ is actually something to _____ about because they are participating in bringing God glory.
2. _____ speaking, there is no reason for us to rejoice in the midst of persecution, but from God's _____, it draws us closer to Him and brings much glory to His name. (Hebrews 5:5-10, Psalm 66:8-12, 11 Peter 1:6-9)

C. We will enjoy intimacy with Christ when we are identified with _____ in suffering. v.15-16

1. Peter stresses the good while condemning the bad; suffering as a _____ is right and just, but suffering as a _____ is good and glorious.
2. "Christian" = a _____ of Christ (Acts 11:26b)
3. There is no greater joy than to be _____ with Jesus, having everything else stripped away. That is when true reality sets in: Christ is in us and with us. (Acts 5:17-41, 2 Timothy 4:16-18)

D. The key to experiencing intimacy with Christ through suffering is to _____ into Him and allow Him to _____ us. v.17-19

1. Peter challenges his fellow believers to _____ the Lord to use the persecution and suffering that they are facing to _____ their need for Him. Suffering is a means of purification and realization; the more believers suffer, the more they _____ the love of Christ.
2. God desires to use suffering in our lives as a means of _____ our hearts more closely with His. The real question is whether we are willing to trust Him in doing that or if we are going to stubbornly resist His discipline. (2 Peter 1:3-4, John 15:1-21, 16:31-33, Hebrews 12:1-13)
3. Do we desire to know Christ and His love? Then we must _____ ourselves to our loving Creator and faithfully _____ His commands.

#52 He Leadeth Me

A. 1-earthly, 2-called, B.-transformed, 1-suffering, rejoice, 2-humanly, perspective, C.-Him, 1-wrongdoer, Christian, 2-follower, 3-united, D.-press, purify, 1-permit, reveal, understand, 2-aligning, 3-commit, obey