



July 30

Passage: **1 Peter 4:12-19**

Have you ever received encouragement in the form of a reality check? Like...hey congrats on doing good on the test...because of that we're moving you into a tougher class! I'll be honest...that wouldn't make me very happy. But isn't that just like us? We have it backwards sometimes. We believe doing good means things become easier. Like, "no dude, I aced the test so therefore no more tests for me!"

Our lives spiritually seem to be this way. We sometimes seek to please God in hopes of our day going well. Like, our reason for not sinning is to keep God happy and therefore have no issues. It's like God's love is dependent on us. But that's not life, especially life with Christ. That's what we learn today in a way. That life for the believer will be tough and so we are not to blink when this world lines up to strike us rather than reward us. And it seems the closer we get to Christ, the more the trials may be....kind of like that tougher class.

## **READ & DIG. Read 1 Peter 4:12-19**

Here's the encouragement in this - v. 13 - "SHARE CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS"

We're like....we want to share in his kingdom, in all that is good! Much like the disciples said.

But the reality is we forget what life with Christ truly looks like.

In light of this reality for these folks Peter is writing to, he offers some help.

What are we to do when life seems upside down? When we feel we're walking with Christ but cant' "catch a break?"

### **DON'T BE SURPRISED - v.12**

Peter says what we didn't want to hear right? Can you repeat that Peter?

But really, isn't he echoing what Jesus said? In this world you will have troubles!

Guys....gals....it's come, it's here, it's coming. If you walk with Christ, suffering and trials will be there.

Small, big, medium, oversized issues will come. It's not your fault but the fault of sin.

This world is at odds with everything Jesus is about. If you identify with him...you get all he got.

### **REJOICE - v.13**

Peter simply says this, "if you want the glory, you gotta take the suffering."

You want Christ? You must take everything that comes with that.

The sad truth is this world opposes what Christ stands for.....so why wouldn't they snuggle up to you?

Yes! One day we can REJOICE in the glory that is coming....but for now we REJOICE in the suffering.

### **SUFFER RIGHT - vv. 15-16**

Peter doesn't want to be mistaken here....it's really a bit funny. But he makes sure they know how to suffer.

Like, you can't go steal a car, get caught, thrown in jail and then be like, "just suffering for Jesus."

NO! The suffering Peter is talking about is what we've discussed.

When the world mistreats you because of who you are in Christ and what you stand for....that's suffering well.

### **ENTRUST - v. 19**

Entrust is an old word. It means to TRUST COMPLETELY. Totally give up the reigns of something to another.

This scares us but it's what Peter says....we must give all we are to God's hand.

As we do...we experience suffering but we also give it up to a faithful, creator God. A no lose situation

## **APPLY & GO (What now?)**

Very simple today, TRUST ALL TO THE FAITHFUL GOD - SUFFER RIGHTLY - CELEBRATING ALONG THE WAY.

CT STUDD said it best - Only one life will soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last