



I Peter

A Lonely Planet Guide
for Strangers and Exiles

II. Living in a Suffering World

I Peter 4:12-19

- Easy to be surprised by suffering – what is God doing? What are we to do?

1. Expect v12

- Don't be surprised at the **fact** of suffering – at least 5 types of suffering: Broken world/evil done to us/evil in us/anti-Christian/God-designed (not all mutually exclusive)
- Don't be surprised by the **intensity** of suffering – ‘painful trials’ = ‘fiery trials’
- Don't be surprised by the **purpose** of suffering – “the fiery trial when it comes upon you **to test you**” (ESV). God uses trials to refine us and strengthen us.

2. Exult v13-14

- Repeated – “But rejoice ... that you may also rejoice and be glad” (ESV)
- What we praise is a test of who are we – Prov 27:21 – esp true in difficulty

a) Exult because it shows you are joined to Jesus

- Christ was ridiculed, rejected, etc. Christians face same because of Christ-likeness in them.

b) Exult because suffering is always followed by glory for the Christian

- See 1:11, 4:13,14, 5:1,10, Rom 8:17,18, Heb 2:9,10
- For the Christian – all your suffering is now, followed by glory
- For the non-Christian – all your happiness is now, followed by suffering

c) Exult because suffering brings present blessing

- v14 – “If you are insulted you **are** blessed”
- A closer experience of God through the Holy Spirit v14
- “When cast into the cellars of affliction, remember that the great King keep his choicest wine there” Rutherford
- Do we look at the cellar walls or search for the wine?

3. Examine v15-17

- We are to avoid deserved suffering
- Am I engaged in sin? v15
- Am I ashamed of my Lord or glorifying him? v16
- Am I doing anything I wouldn't want to at Christ's return? v17

4. Entrust v18-19

- ‘Hard’ doesn't mean the outcome is uncertain, but that the road is difficult
- ‘commit’ = ‘deposit’ something valuable for safekeeping
- God calls us to trust him nevertheless, because he is faithful—keeping his promises
- God calls us to trust him because he is powerful—able to keep you



new life fellowship

SERVING JESUS CHRIST THE KING

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Sunday 27th November '11

Notices

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| Sunday | Evening service in Stranorlar Thanksgiving to God for 140 years of Stranorlar RPC | 7pm |
| Tuesday | Bible Study at May's Study 1 | |
| Wed | Morning Bible Study - at Eithne's The Art of Living - chapter 2 | 10.30am |
| December | | |
| Sun 4th | Sermon on I Peter 5:1-5 | 10.15am |
| Mon 5th | The Christian Institute Mount Errigal Hotel <i>Informing Christians of key issues facing the church in Ireland today</i> | 8pm |
| Sun 11th | Communion If you haven't joined with us to take part in the Lord's Supper and would like to take part please speak to Mark beforehand. | 10.15am |

Pastor: Mark Loughridge Tel: 074 9123961 email: mark@newlifefellowship.ie
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