



1 Peter

When Ridiculed

Session 8

Hope itself is like a star – not to be seen in the sunshine of prosperity, and only to be discovered in the night of adversity. *By Charles Spurgeon*

Peter has addressed the subject of suffering in at least 20 verses of his first letter. This is an average of 4 verses in each chapter that he has devoted to suffering. He never referred to suffering in a general sense, but always to the type of suffering that resulted from opposition to faith in Christ.

Read 1 Peter 4:12-14

Question: How does suffering help a believer share in Christ's suffering? Why does the temporary nature of suffering encourage those who are enduring it?

When people spoke against His followers, Jesus promised they would receive a reward for their faithfulness to Him (see Matt. 5:11-12).

Question: How does the presence of the Holy Spirit help Christians who endure insults and ridicule?

Read 1 Peter 4:15-16

Question: How can you counsel people who protest as unfair the suffering that results from their own moral choices?

Anyone who suffers as a Christian has no reason to be ashamed. Peter was a man who understood shame because of his own actions.

Question: How do people try to shame believers into hiding their faith or rejecting their faith in practice? What's the relationship between living unashamed and remaining faithful to Christ?

Read 1 Peter 4:17-19

When we think of judgement, we often think it refers only to condemnation. But the term Peter used for judgement meant evaluation, resulting in either approval or disapproval.

Question: How would you define the difference between the purpose of judgement for believers and for unbelievers?

Peter ends this portion of scripture with an exhortation. First, we should commit ourselves to do what is good in responding to suffering. And secondly, to entrust ourselves to the faithful Creator.

Question: Why do you think Peter emphasized God as Creator in verse 19? And, how does God's relationship to us as Creator help us trust Him more?

Final Question: How is God testing and refining your faith? What has He taught you about Himself in the process?

Assignment: Evaluate your stand for Christ. If challenged, are you ready for the test or will you crumble in the face of opposition?

Next week: Read 1 Peter 5:1-14 Good Advice