

Called to be Different : When Trials Come

Text : 1 Peter 4:12-19

Introduction

We suffer :-

- (1) because we are a part of a fallen creation (Rom 8:18-25).
- (2) as a consequences of personal sin (both believers and unbelievers): Dt 28:15–30:20; Prov 1:20-33; 4:19; 13:15; 15:19; Matt 18:15-20; Acts 5:1-11; 1 Cor 5:1-13; 11:27-30.
- (3) as a result of rejecting Christ - eternally (Lk 16:19-31; 2 Thess. 1:5-10; Rev 20:11-15).
- (4) As a form of discipline at God's loving hand to grow us in our walk with Him (Job; Heb 12:1-13; Ja 1:1-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7).
- (5) Voluntary suffering as we pledge our allegiance to Christ and live a godly life (Jn 15:13; Acts 20:33-35; Rom 12:10; 15:1-3; 1 Cor 8-10, 9:1-27; Phil 2:1-4; 3:7-11; Col 1:24; 1 Peter 2:12, 18-25; 3:15-17; 4:1, 12-19).

i. As Christians, we should **expect** trials (4:12)

- We are surprised by the **purpose** of our trials
- We are surprised by the **source** of our trials.

2. As Christians, we should **exult (glory)** in trials (4:13-14).

Romans 5:3-4

James 1:2-4

Three reasons why we can exult in our trials:

a. they lead us to deeper relationship with Christ. (vs. 13)

- Daniel's friends in the furnace
- Stephen – when being stoned (Acts 7:56).
- Paul in Corinth – the Lord encouraged him to go on speaking (Acts 18:9-10).
- Paul when standing trial in Rome - told Timothy how the Lord stood by him and strengthened him (2 Tim. 4:17).

b. because they'll lead us to a deeper reliance on Him

c. because they lead us to a deeper reflection of Christ (vs. 14)

E.g. Silversmith

3. As Christians we should **examine** ourselves in trials (4:15-18).

Three questions we need to ask ourselves when we face trials:

- 1) Is this trial due to some known sin in my life (4:15)?
- 2) How can I glorify God in this trial (4:16)?
- 3) Have I viewed this trial from an eternal perspective (4:17-18)?
 - In Old Testament, when God did a work of purification or judgment, He began at the sanctuary and moved outward (Ezek. 9:4-6; Jer. 25:29; Mal. 3:1-3).
 - Paul told the Corinthians that they needed to judge their own lives by dealing with their sin so that they would not be condemned along with the world (1 Cor. 11:31-32).