



LESSON EIGHT:

The Suffering of a Christian

Sunday AM Sermon by Ray Reynolds (9/11/11)
GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Text: I Peter 4:12-19

Introduction: We are currently studying through the book of I Peter. His theme is the encouragement of Christians in suffering. Rome was just starting to persecute the Christians, and Peter in his wisdom chose to prepare them for this spiritual battle. He wants to address some spiritual issues, provide an explanation for the “fiery trial” (**I Peter 4:12**), and lift up the community of believers. Peter views the suffering of Christians through the agonies of Jesus, and recognizes the divine purpose of Christian suffering in light of the atonement of Christ. I believe he wanted Christians to establish an unstoppable faith. Specifically, we will be looking at the suffering of a Christian in our lesson today. Let's study together

Discussion:

I. The Fiery Trial (4:12-14)

- A. Christians should be prepared for terrible trouble.
- B. Christians should be prepared for strange things.
- C. Christians should rejoice in their suffering.
- D. Christians should remember the name they wear.

II. The Frustrating Persecution (4:15-17)

- A. Christians should not suffer like worldly people.
- B. Christians should not encourage trouble.
- C. Christians should not be ashamed.
- D. Christians should not fear judgment.

III. The Faithful Creator (4:18-19)

- A. Christians have salvation.
- B. Christians have hope.
- C. Christians trust God.
- D. Christians do the right thing.

Conclusion: Every Christian should have an unstoppable faith. You can run us over. You can hurt us. You can even kill us. But, you will NOT stop us. We are Jesus strong! We are filled with the Spirit of God! And, we have a hope that will keep us motivated to move forward. How's your faith? Have you committed your life to Christ?

WORD OF THE DAY = "SUFFERING"