

1 Peter – Small Group Study Week Thirteen

Verses for the week: 1 Peter 4:12-19

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And ‘If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?’ Therefore, let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.”

Questions:

1. Why do you think Christianity has survived for 2000+ years when it is marked by suffering?
2. How can it be that you are "blessed" if you are insulted? See Verse 14. See also Matthew 5:10.
3. How does the sovereignty of God help you live out Verse 19?

Quote of the week: "The persecution is getting worse and worse and worse. But on the other hand actually, what has encouraged me, encouraged my faith, encouraged my church, encouraged everybody Christian in the region is that Church is increasing. We are not afraid or worried that the persecution will increase. We are just feeling that this is God's time. God is working perfectly now in the Middle East. Even with all the crazy stuff happening, God is really working now. So, I want to encourage you that, of course, you need to pray for your brothers and sisters in the ME who are suffering for being Christians and for their faith, but I am asking you to pray a different prayer. Don't pray for the persecution to stop, but pray for their boldness, their courage, for their faith and that they can all be witnesses for God's work and for God." **Quote from young girl from Middle East.**

