

“Entrust Your Souls to a Faithful Creator”

Intro: When believers suffer because they name the name of Christ - on account of their being wed to Christ, being the divine off-spring of the Almighty God - they _____ their Heavenly Father as they endure the unjust and painful trial in an attitude of _____.

A. In sharing in the sufferings of Christ - enduring those sufferings that are meant for Him - they also are assured that they are _____, and belong _____ and will soon be _____.

I. The Christian’s suffering _____ come to them because of their own _____ful activities (vs. 15).

A. If you are put to _____, let it be for Christ’s sake on account of righteousness, _____ for a sinful _____ for which such a sentence would be just.

B. When Peter uses the word “_____” he means to encompass wrong doing - or civil _____.

C. Peter goes way beyond the idea of merely breaking the law when he adds that we should not suffer for being a “_____ meddler.”

1. The term from which we get “troublesome meddler” literally means “one who _____ in things alien to his calling” and “an _____” or “troublemaker.” (Cf. 1 Thess. 4:10-12; 2 Thess. 3:10-12; 1 Tim. 2:1-3; Titus 3:1-5)

II. The Christian’s suffering (that comes purely because of their identification with Christ - as a Christian) should _____ cause them to be _____ (vs. 16).

A. The one who unjustly suffers for Christ should suffer with their unashamedly showing forth their brave _____ to suffer on account of their Savior.

B. As a Christian, bearing His _____ is not a burden but a delightful privilege that should well up in our souls and spring forth in _____ to God. Thus demonstrating that we believe that the privilege of bearing our Savior’s name is _____ for!

III. Through the Christian’s suffering _____ accomplishes His _____ on _____ (vss. 17-18).

A. God often uses those who are not His people as an instrument to bring needful purifying judgement (_____) upon His people that they might repent, and at the same time to store up wrathful _____ that is to be poured out upon those who hate Him.

1. The testing of the Christian faith produces _____ in those who really believe and the testing of those who do not really believe produces a _____, showing that their faith never really was (cf. 1 Jo. 2:19).

2. What will be the outcome for those who obey the gospel verses those who do not? The difference could not be greater. Heb 5:9 says that "He became to all those who _____ Him the source of eternal _____." And, Matt 25:46 says that "the righteous [will go] into eternal life" but those who do not obey the gospel of God "will go away into eternal _____."

III. Though Christians might suffer for doing good they suffer only as God wills and therefore, should _____ themselves to the faithful _____ and continue to _____.

A. The Christian who truly _____ persecution only suffers if should _____ it so (cf. 3:17).

B. Christians should _____ themselves to the _____ Creator!

1. The word "entrust" refers to "a deposit made for _____." The one who entrusts himself to another gives himself over to the care of the other. We must learn to entrust ourselves to Him who judges righteously (cf. 2:23).

2. This is the only place in the N.T. where God is referred to as the "_____." The Creator is the Author of everything. This is meant to underscore the idea that Christians suffer only as _____ it.

C. Christians show that they have entrusted themselves to the faithful Creator during times of persecution by _____ to do what is _____.

Closing: May we follow along with the Apostle Paul who in his first letter to Timothy encouraged the young and timid preacher saying, 1:8, "Therefore do _____ be _____ of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, 9 who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to _____ own and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, ... 12 For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have _____ to _____ until that day.

Heritage Christian Fellowship
11104 Menaul Blvd. NE., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112
505.323.0557
maxwell_timothy@hotmail.com