

becoming



who

you are

He Resides With Us

07.28.2024

1 Peter 4:12-19

Dale Gustafson

1 Peter 4:12-19

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

“This is a key change because it makes the bar to entry much lower. If you are a male who wants to convert to Christianity, and there’s an assumption that first you have to convert to Judaism, it’s literally physically painful and dangerous for you to convert.”

- Edward Watts, *Rome’s Unexpected Path to Christianity*

“do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you...”

“as you participate in the sufferings of Christ...”

“if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God”

James 1:2

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds...

“Other cultures have provided its members with various answers to the question ‘What is the purpose of human life?’ Some cultures have said it is to live a good life and so eventually escape the cycle of karma and reincarnation and be liberated into eternal bliss. Some have said it is enlightenment—the recognition of the oneness of all things and the attainment of tranquility. Others have said it is to live a life of virtue, of nobility and honor. There are those who teach that the ultimate purpose in life is to go to heaven to be with your loved ones and with God forever. The crucial commonality is this: In every one of these worldviews, suffering can, despite its painfulness, be an important means of actually achieving your purpose in life. It can play a pivotal role in propelling you toward all the most important goals. One could say that in each of these other cultures’ grand narratives—what human life is all about—suffering can be an important chapter or part of that story...but modern Western culture is different. In the secular view, this material world is all there is. And so, the meaning of life is to have the freedom to choose the life that makes you most happy. However, in that view of things, suffering can have no meaningful part. It is a complete interruption of your life story—it cannot be a meaningful part of the story. In this approach to life, suffering should be avoided at almost any cost, or minimized to the greatest degree possible.”

- Tim Keller, *Walking With God Through Pain & Suffering*

1 Peter 4:14

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“in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord” – Exodus 16:7

“the glory of the Lord settled upon Mount Sinai” – Exodus 24:16

“Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.” – Exodus 40:34

“the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord” – 1 Kings 8:10,11

Acts 6:15

...as they looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Hebrews 5:8

Even though Jesus was God’s Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered.

1 Peter 4:19

So then, those who suffer according to God’s will, should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.