

^[7] Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

How does this compare to what Jesus said in Matthew 6.25-27?

How can a person “cast anxiety on Jesus/God?”

^[8] Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Read 1 Peter 1:13; 4:7 What do we learn about self-control?

What is wrong with the image of a roaring lion seeking something to eat?

Why can the devil act this way?

^[9] Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

What two actions are we to take toward the devil?

Read James 4:7 How does this help us in our daily lives?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 How does this help when we are undergoing temptation or suffering?

^[10] And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ^[11] To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Who can expect to suffer?

How long can the person expect to suffer?

What will eventually happen if the person remains true?

^[12] With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it.

^[13] She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark. ^[14] Greet one another with a kiss of love.

Peace to all of you who are in Christ.



Study lesson #7

© 2014 Rev. Bob Highlands III - Text 1 Peter 4.12-5.14^{NIV}

^[4.12] Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.

^[13] But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ^[14] If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ^[15] If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ^[16] However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. ^[17] For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ^[18] And,

“If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,

what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

^[19] So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

The words “painful trial” come from the Greek words that mean “burning or fiery ordeal.” It brings with it the concept of a refining fire that removes the impurities from the metal. Remember this as you read this section about the suffering and ordeals that a Christian faces. ^(REHIII)

Vs. 12 What is the wrong way to react to painful trials? Why?

Vs. 13 How should we react?

- ❑ Why is having such an attitude important to the believer?
- ❑ Vs. 14 What is the right reason to suffer?
- ❑ Vs. 15. What is the wrong reason to suffer?
- ❑ Vs. 16 How should the Christian respond to suffering?
- ❑ Vs 17-18 Why is it hard for the righteous to be saved?
- ❑ What will happen to everyone else without Christ?
- ❑ Vs. 19 Even in suffering what is the Christian suppose to do?

^[5:1] To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ^[2]Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; ^[3]not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ^[4]And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

- ❑ Vs. 1 What three reason does Peter give for the elders to listen to him?
- ❑ How would you define an elder in your church?
- ❑ Vs. 2 The word shepherd is the same word use for one who tends sheep. How does this apply to elders in your church?
- ❑ How are the elders/shepherds suppose to view the flock?
- ❑ Why is it important that they be seen as “serving” as overseers?
- ❑ How can a leader become “greedy for money” as a church overseer? See also 1 Corinthians 9.7-12 & 1 Timothy 5.17-18
- ❑ Vs. 3 How do some leaders wrongly see their position?
- ❑ How should they see their position in the church?
- ❑ Vs. 4 What is the real reward for serving as a servant leader in the church?

- ❑ List the three titles given to church leaders in this section of scripture. How does each one help us understand how leaders function in the body of Christ.
- ^[5]Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older.
- ❑ How can young men (women) see the elders from verses 1-4 as submissive examples?
- ❑ In what ways should the young be submissive?

For further study on the qualifications of church leaders see the following: (notice the difference between Elders, Deacon and, Deaconesses.)

1 Timothy 3.1-12

Titus 1.5-9

1 Peter 5.1-4

Acts 20.28

^{5b}All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because,

“God opposes the proud
but gives grace to the humble.”

- ❑ Vs. 5b Define humility.
- ❑ Why do you think it should be seen as something that is put on like clothing?
- ❑ To be humble is to be meek. The Biblical definition of meek is ‘someone who is under control.’ With this definition what key word in 1 Peter is about being personally under control? Hint see 1 Peter 2.13; 2.18; 3.1; 3.5; 3.22; 5.5. What does this have to be with being humble and meek?
- ^[6]Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.
- ❑ How is humble defined here?
- ❑ What does “God’s mighty hand” mean to you personally?
- ❑ How is the last part of this verse a promise for you personally.