

Joy Through Trials in Christ Our Hope (1 Peter 1:6-9)

- Reflection on what God has done for us in Christ should fill us with exultant joy
- Peter is not focusing merely on our blessings in Christ but Christ our blessing
- Dramatically Peter moves from ecstasy to agony. Joy in Christ turns to trials.
- Peter's not just thinking about suffering Christians but the suffering Christ
- Peter knew well how Jesus was put to grief & because of his grief we have joy
- He wants to assure Christians of their hope in trials: 4 reasons for hope in trials

I. Reason #1 Our Hope in Christ Points Us Beyond Our Trials

- Our troubles last only 4 a little while; our hope in Christ is forever. Jesus Himself
“Endured the cross, despising the shame, & is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” Heb 12: 2.

II. Reason # 2: Our Hope is Strengthened through the Trials We Endure

- Peter declares that God has kept us for glory by faith – our faith must be tested
- When faith is tested, it is purified – it must pass through the furnace like gold (v.7)
- Trials should not cause us to doubt or cause us to doubt God's faithfulness
- Our trials keep us trusting, they burn away our self-confidence & drive us to Jesus
- The genuineness of our faith shines from the fire to His praise

III. Reason # 3: When Jesus Comes He will bring Far More than an End to Suffering; He Will Bring Reward and Blessing

- Our present suffering cannot be compared to the glory that will be revealed in us
- Our faith will be found to be precious, for by it we (and He) will receive glory (7)
- Peter affirms the glory of God as the final goal of all our service (4:11).
- The thought of all praise being directed to God is key to Peter's teaching us here

IV. Reason # 4: We Receive Glory As We Share in Christ's Glory

- Peter links joy with suffering to stress the glorious truth: we share in Christ's glory
- We receive glory as we share in Christ's glory. God is glorified much in our faith
- When Jesus Christ is revealed, - gold of our faith will shine to His praise
- Peter contrasts - past & present with future (1:8). The day is coming... when Jesus will be revealed. In that day the goal of our faith will be realized
- Not only do we have faith in Jesus & love for Jesus now
- We also know already the joy that we will experience when we see him.