

14. If God is willing to judge those who have received Jesus and so “become children of God” (Jn 1.12) what does Peter say in these verses about those “disobey the gospel” and are therefore “not children of God” but “children of the flesh” (Rom 9.8)? Which would you rather endure, the fiery trials now, knowing you will be saved, or the final judgement to come?

15. How do we see once again that suffering is not outside the will and purposes of God? Does knowing these things make it easier or harder to entrust our souls to a faithful creator?

*Notice how at the end of this passage that Peter slips in another encouragement to do good - our proper response to God's grace, even though we endure fiery trials.*

## Pray

Pray for those to preach and teach in your church, for the wonderful task of explaining the gospel of Christ, and the, often difficult task, or teaching that as believers we should not be surprised by suffering or persecution

Once again pray for “your brotherhood throughout the world” (1 Pt 5.9) who are suffering through fiery trials at this time.

*David Phillips  
November 2016*

# 1 Peter

## Week 9 : Fiery Trials

**1 Peter 4.12-19**

### Don't be surprised

**Read 1 Peter 4.12-16**

1. Are you ready for trouble? How does Peter warn us to be ready? But would you be determined to stand firm if fiery trials came?

2. How did Jesus warn about this in Jn 15.18-20?

3. **Read Acts 14.21-22** When you became a disciple were you taught to expect many tribulations? Do you think this is made plain enough at your church? (See also 2 Tim 3.12)

4. Do you pray for Christians who are persecuted, whether those you know or those in other countries? How can learning about (and therefore praying for) such believers help us? (When you have thought about this have a look at 1 Peter 5.9.)

5. In study 2 (questions 3,6,7, 8 & 10) what five reasons did you find for rejoicing under trials? Which of these are mentioned in the present passage?

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

6. What additional reason does Jesus give in the Beatitudes (Mtt 5.11-12)?

7. Jesus talked about being blessed when you are persecuted, how does Peter say we are blessed and what should we therefore remember if we are insulted for the name of Christ? Are you conscious of this blessing and is it something you give thanks for?

*In verse 15 Peter reintroduces the same note as 2.20 - don't suffer for the wrong reasons, don't do those things for which we would justly deserve suffering.*

## **A Christian**

8. Verse 16 contains one of only three times where the name "Christian" is used in the New Testament. Can you think of other terms used in the NT to describe Christians, either by themselves or by others? (As a starter see Acts 24.5.)

9. Acts 11.26 seems to imply that the title Christian was first given by others. However, whilst such nicknames are often given in order to mock there is nothing to suggest this was the reason in Antioch. What benefit does this title have and why do you think it stuck?

10. Are there any difficulties with the term Christian today?

11. If you were describing yourself to someone how you do it almost certainly depends upon the situation. But, in general, would you just use the word Christian, or qualify it in some way, or say something different? Why?

12. In what ways do the media describe well known people who are Christians? How are others (non-Christians, or the media if you are famous) likely to describe you or your faith?

## **Judgement Begins**

### **Read 1 Peter 4.17-19**

13. We have seen how trials can refine our faith. But what does verse 17 say about how trials can also be part of God's judgement on the "household of God"? What does that expression "household (or house) of God" convey about the role of heavenly Father in this?