

CALVARY CHAPEL SOUTH BAY
MEN OF THE WORD
MEN'S MINISTRY
2020 - 2021

1 Peter – “A Living Hope”

Session 16

1 Peter 4:12-19 (NKJV)

“Burn now or burn later”

You've heard the old saying, “you can pay me now or pay me later”? Paying for regular oil changes now is much better than paying for an engine overhaul later. In the same way, it is far better to suffer the **“fiery trials”** now than the fires of judgment eternally. In fact, we can even rejoice in our trials because we know God uses them to purify us (1:7), to give us fellowship with Jesus who also suffered, and because righteous suffering leads to glory (4:13). Not so for those who reject the grace of God offered through the gospel. Our judgment is for correction unto righteousness, but theirs is judgment unto eternal condemnation. This leads us to two questions. Are you embracing the fiery trials of this life as part of God's work in drawing you closer to Him? And are you engaging in the Father's work of seeking those who are lost in order to save them from the fires of God's judgment to come?

Personal Study Time Questions:

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:12

What does Peter say about the **“fiery trials”** we face in this life?

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:13

According to Peter, why is it we can even **“rejoice”** in our fiery trials?

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:7

Keeping everything in context, look back at the beginning of this Letter. What are the two things it says we gain from the fiery trials? What is required of us in the face of trials?

Scripture: James 1:2-4

What does James say the testing of our faith through trials will produce in our lives? What happens to us when we let God do His perfect work in us through the trials?

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:14-16

How are we **“blessed”** when we suffer for the sake of living for Christ, rather than suffering as a sinner? What does our righteous suffering do for the **“name of Christ”**?

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:17-18; Romans 2:12-16

What phrase in v.17 makes it clear that our **“judgment”** as the **“righteous”** differs from the judgment of the **“sinner”**? According to Paul in Romans, what determines the difference?

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:19

What can give us the confidence to commit ourselves to God in doing good in this life even in the face of suffering for it?

Personal Application:

This passage has a lot to teach us on having the right perspective in life. What has it taught you about having a more long range view of life? What has changed in the way you view trials as a result of this and the previous passages on suffering? How can it help you when you face future trials? What has this passage done to change your attitude toward the lost; those who have not yet **“obeyed the gospel of God”**?

Hiding God's Word in your heart (Ps. 119:11):

“Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.”

1 Peter 4:12-13