



## Suffering For Christ

**Main Text for The Week:** *“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:” (1 Peter 2:21, KJV).*

**Read and Meditate on these Texts:**

*1 Pet. 1:6, 3:13-22, 2 Tim. 3:12, 1 Pet. 4:12-14, Rev. 12:17, 1 Pet. 4:17-19*

**Main Thought for the Week:** Suffering of believers for Christs’ sake is one of the major themes of Peter in the First Epistle that he has written. There are at least three extended passages that deal with his readers’ suffering for Christ: **1 Peter 2:18-25; 3:13-21; 4:12-19.** Jesus is our example. He endured punishment unjustly. He suffered mercilessly at the hands of His persecutors, not because of any evil He had done, yet He was exposed to suffering. As Christians, followers of Christ, we must expect the same, and when it comes, bear it in the same spirit and commit yourself to your heavenly Father above with the help of the Holy Spirit.



## **Persecution of Early Christians**

### **Sunday's Summary – April 30:**

**Discussion Thought:** When we are assailed and grieved by various trials, we must rejoice in God's keeping power, with the understanding that God has a purpose, not only in permitting the trials but for the heavy grief we experience during the trials. He is able to keep you faithful during the fiery ordeals of life. - **1 Cor. 10:13, Phil. 1:6, Jude 1:24.**

1. What was Peter hinting at to the early believers and what was he telling them as to how to respond to the suffering they were facing? (**1 Peter 1:6; 5:10**) \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. What may have been the nature of some of the kinds of sufferings the early believers endured as hinted by the following texts? (**1 Peter 2:12; 3:9; 4:14**) \_\_\_\_\_  
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**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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## **Suffering and the Example of Christ**

### **Monday’s Summary – May 1:**

**SUMMARY THOUGHTS:** When Peter says, “if ye suffer for righteousness’ sake, happy are ye” (1 Pet. 3:14, KJV), he is just echoing the words of Jesus: “blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake” (Matt. 5:10, KJV). He then says that Christians should not fear those who are attacking them, but they should sanctify Christ as Lord in their hearts (1 Pet. 3:15). This affirmation of Jesus in their own hearts will help to buffer the fear that they face from those opposing them.

1. What does Peter say will put the accusers of believers to shame? (1 Peter 3:16) \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Have you ever suffered because you took a principled stand for Jesus Christ and His Truth? What kept you through such experience? \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Appeal:** Peter says that some of the sufferings we face will be fiery [hot] (1 Peter 4:12). Are you faced with just such an ordeal right now in your Christian life? Why not just lift your heart to God right now and thank Him for the victory he has promised? (1 Peter 4:13)

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**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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## The Fiery Trial

### Tuesday's Summary – May 2:

1. Why does Peter say that Christians should not be surprised at the suffering they experience? (1 Peter 4:12-14) \_\_\_\_\_

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2. In what ways do the following texts relate to the counsel Peter gives in 1 Peter 4:12-14? (2 Timothy 3:12; John 15:18) \_\_\_\_\_

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**ILLUMINATION:** “So it will be with all who live godly in Christ Jesus. Persecution and reproach await all who are imbued with the Spirit of Christ. The character of the persecution changes with the times, but the principle-the spirit that underlies it-is the same that has slain the chosen of the Lord ever since the days of Abel.” - *The Acts of the Apostles, p. 576.*

**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Judgment and the People of God**

### **Wednesday’s Summary – May 3:**

**Discussion Thought:** In biblical times, judgment was usually something highly desired. The picture of the poor widow in **Luke 18:1-8** captures the wider attitude toward judgment. The widow knows that she will prevail in her case if only she can find a judge who will take her case. She has insufficient money and status to get her case heard, but she finally persuades the judge to hear it and to give her what she deserves. As Jesus says, “And shall God not avenge His own elect which cry day and night unto Him?” (Luke 18:7, KJV). Sin has brought evil into the world, and God’s people throughout the ages have long waited for God to make things right again.

1. What do **Isaiah 10:11-12** and **Malachi 3:1-6** have in common with **1 Peter 4:17-19**?

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2. Why is the concept of Judgment or Justice central to the Gospel of Christ? (**Revelation 14:7; 15:4**) \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Faith Amid Trials**

### **Thursday's Summary – May 4:**

**Discussion Thought:** Knowing who God is for yourself, His mercy, His goodness and love for you personally are critical components in the life and experience of the Christian, especially when he is faced with suffering. It is therefore very important that we all resolve, with the help of the Holy Spirit to come to know God and the reality of His provisional care for all His creation. - **Matthew 6:26-32.**

1. How do the following texts help to answer the question of the origin of suffering?  
(1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:9; Revelation 2:10) \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. How does the advice Peter gives in 1 Peter 4:8-10 help us in whatever we are struggling with right now? \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Appeal:** You may have had so much suffering at the hand of church or blood brothers and sisters that you have nigh lost faith in humanity. But having been reminded this week that your Lord and Master suffered for you way in excess of anything you may go through; are you prepared right now to trust the Holy Spirit to move you by God's grace over such hurdles? **Yes or No?** \_\_\_\_\_ Your family at Metro New York World Ministry prays with you just now for healing and grace. \_\_\_\_\_  
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**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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## **Suffering for Christ**

### **Friday’s Summary – May 5:**

**ILLUMINATION:** Those of us who are privileged to witness scenes and events associated with the final movements in the history of this planet and God’s church on earth will no doubt be brought to situations and circumstances where we will either remain true to Jehovah and suffer for Christ; or we will give up our faith and find favour with men. Meditate on this stirring inspired counsel found in the book **Great Controversy, Pages 614-615**

“Those who honor the law of God have been accused of bringing judgments upon the world, and they will be regarded as the cause of the fearful convulsions of nature and the strife and bloodshed among men that are filling the earth with woe. The power attending the last warning has enraged the wicked; their anger is kindled against all who have received the message and Satan will excite to still greater intensity the spirit of hatred and persecution.”

**Final Thoughts:** **A Prayer for Spiritual Strengthening:** Metro New York World Ministry, knowing the sufferings and dangers that assail Christians each and every day, and the futility of trying to face these challenges in our own strength, offers up prayer on behalf of all believers, asking God, the Holy Spirit, to do His work of perfecting, establishing, strengthening and settling us in the truth in these last days.

**PERSONAL NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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