

Fact Sheet for “For the Name of Christ”

1 Peter 4:12-19

Pastor Bob Singer
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The first mention of the word “father” in the Bible was before sin entered the human experience (Genesis 2:24). God’s perfect design for the family included *both* fathers and mothers. They have different natures and different roles but both are both integral parts of God’s best will for the home. Perhaps one of the most memorable passages in the Bible is Proverbs 1:8-9. It was God’s will that both parents, as they themselves followed the Lord, should teach their children. An OT passage that is quoted in the NT is found in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:12).

Now sin has scrambled so much of God’s perfect design for the family in the lives of so many. We live in a culture where divorce is commonplace and gender confusion is being taught to the next generation. These are not God’s best design for either individuals or families. They are evidence of sin and can only end in the ugly results of sin. But there is hope. We can never go back and change the past. We can only look toward the future and dedicate ourselves to serving Christ to the best of our ability now.

As we come to 1 Peter 4:12-19 you can almost imagine a father instructing his son or daughter with these words...

ESV ¹² ¶ **Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial (πύρωσις) when it comes upon you to test (test πειρασμός) you, as though something strange were happening to you.** ¹³ **But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed (ἀποκάλυψις** An English word that sounds like this Greek word is “apocalypse”. The Greek title for the book of Revelation is actually “The Apocalypse of John”).

I want to be careful with English translations of the original words here so that you can better see their meanings.

These two verses from 1 Peter sound a lot like...

ESV **James 1:2-4** ¶ Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials (tests πειρασμός) of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing (proving, δοκίμιον) of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

ESV **1 Peter 1:3-7** ¶ Blessed (spoken of with good words εὐλογητός) be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials (tests πειρασμός), ⁷ so that the tested genuineness (proving δοκίμιον) of your faith-- more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested (proved δοκιμάζω) by fire (πῦρ) -- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

The apostles experienced both this fire and the rejoicing.

^{ESV} **Acts 5:40-41** ¶ and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name (of Jesus).

Pay attention to these two references to “the name”. They are much like what we find in the following verses of 1 Peter.

¹⁴ **If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed** (happy μακάριος), **because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.**

“blessed” – The same word as in the Beattitudes (Matthew 5:3-12) and can be translated “happy”.

“**the name of Christ**” – We will see another reference to this in verse 16.

“**the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you**” – a reference to the Holy Spirit’s indwelling presence

¹⁵ **But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler.** ¹⁶ **Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.**

“**meddler**” – One who interferes in the affairs of others

“**in that name**” – from context “**the name of Christ**” in verse 14.

¹⁷ **For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us** (The grammar here has the clear sense that it does begin with us.), **what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?**

This purifying judgment is not for sin (that is not in the context) but in the testing and in the proving of our faith. However it is a harbinger of what is surely coming on those who do not believe.

¹⁸ **And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"**

This is a quote from Proverbs 11:31. The Septuagint reads...

^{NETS} **Proverbs 11:31** If the righteous is scarcely saved, where will the impious and the sinner appear?

¹⁹ **Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.**

Peter was encouraging the believers of his time, and God is encouraging us through Peter, to not be ashamed but stand strong for Christ... when we are insulted for our faith or even suffer for it. This is becoming an ever increasing likelihood in our culture.

Fathers... help your son or daughter stand strong in this culture by reminding them of these verses in 1 Peter!