

Reproached for the Name of Christ

Scripture

“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. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed [are you], for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.” (1 Peter 4:12-14 NKJV)

Commentary

Living for Christ means your suffering. If you take a stand on anything in this world, people will hurl insults at you and make all kinds of accusations, all the more when you stand for Christ. The Scriptures tell us not to think of this as some strange thing.

Instead, we are encouraged to rejoice because we are partaking in the sufferings of Christ. This suffering has the end goal of exceeding joy at the revelation of His glory. By entering into His suffering, His return will be all the more sweet. Like a mother giving birth, the pain is incredible, but the first time she takes her little baby to breast, she is overwhelmed with joy.

We are strengthened to suffer by the knowledge that the Spirit of God rest upon us when we suffer. He is there during those special moments. He sees and hears the blasphemy, but to you He accounts it as glory. He is glorified by our willingness to suffer for Him and His name’s sake.

Are you suffering for the name of Christ? Count it a joy. “How?” you ask. You do so by living for eternity. Remember the exceeding joy will be when His glory is revealed. By suffering now, you have become a partaker in His sufferings which will make you a partaker of His joy.

Those who truly live for Christ have a longing to see Him. Those who live for the world have a fear of His return. Take some time and think about how you will live this day. Will you live it for Christ, or for self? Be assured that, “. . . the sufferings of this present time are not worthy [to be compared] with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” (Romans 8:18 NKJV)

Prayer

Father, strengthen us for the trials of this day. Remind us to be willing to suffer for your name’s sake. If we should falter in that time of testing, forgive us as you forgave Peter. We can do nothing without you Lord. So, show yourself mighty in your servants this day we pray, amen.