

Adult Sunday School (1 Peter) Lesson 9

1 Pet 4:12-19: **A Hard Life**

15 June 2025

Introduction

- The mindset believers must be armed with for a life of suffering is a mindset of obedience – “it is better to suffer than to sin”.
- The apostle Peter encourages the believers to crank up their obligations one to another in the church in the midst of suffering, rather than shrinking away from them – whether it be in loving one another, or serving one another.
- The ultimate purpose is to glorify God in all things -- the apostle Peter pauses in 4:11 with a doxology.
- In this section, the apostle Peter stresses the need to be steadfast as a Christian in suffering.

1. Rejoice in that those who share in His suffering shall share in His glory (v12-16)

- Do not be surprised, but rejoice! (Acts 14:22)
- Rejoice for you are not just suffering for Christ, you are suffering with Christ (Jn 17:14, Lk 9:23)
 - The exceeding joy (Jn 17:24; Psalm 16:11)
 - The sufferings that led to His glory (1 Pet 1:11; Lk 24:26)
- Rejoice in the opportunity to glorify God when you suffer for Christ (Jn 15:18,19)
 - We glorify God only when we suffer in the way of righteousness

2. Remember that judgment must first begin with God's people (v17-18)

- The evaluation of God's people (Jas 3:1) and the purifying of His church (1 Pet 1:7)
- God's judgment begins at His people, before He moves on to the unbelieving (Jer 25:15,29; Mal 3:2-4)
- The place of the wicked (2 Thess 1:8,9)
- God is determined to bring us into conformity to His son (Rom 8:29)

3. Commit continually the safekeeping of your souls to your faithful Creator (v19)

- Committing ourselves continually
- The ultimate cause of our suffering is the will of God
 - The example of Christ (1 Pet 2:23, Jn 12:27)
- Our Faithful Creator
 - Power (Acts 4:24)
 - Wisdom (Psa 139:14)
 - Love (Psa 103:14)
 - The faithfulness of God
- Safekeeping of our souls (Psa 91:11)
- Steadfastly maintaining our testimony in suffering

Additional Notes: