

NHBC BIBLE STUDY INSTITUTE

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**“ FACTS ABOUT THE FURNACES PART II “**

**I PETER 4 VS 15-18**

LAST WEEK WHEN WE LOOKED AT VERSES 12 – 14 WE DISCOVERED THE TWO OF THE INSTRUCTIONS TO FOLLOW WHEN WE ARE EXPERIENCING SUFFERING ( FIERY TRIAL ) :

**I. EXPECT SUFFERING (VS 12 )**

**II. REJOICE IN SUFFERING ( VS 13-14 )**

***4 REASONS TO REJOICE ARE : LOOK AT LAST WEEKS LESSON***

AS WE LOOK AT THE NEXT THREE VERSES, **(15-19)** WE WILL FIND THE NEXT TWO INSTRUCTIONS THAT PETER GIVES US AS WE SUFFER :

**III. EXAMINE YOUR LIFE ( VS 15-18 )** – IN THE FURNACE OF PERSECUTION AND SUFFERING, WE OFTEN HAVE MORE LIGHT BY WHICH WE CAN EXAMINE OUR LIVES AND MINISTRIES. THE FIERY TRIAL IS A REFINING PROCESS , BY WHICH GOD REMOVES THE DROSS AND PURIFIES US. ONE DAY, A FIERY JUDGEMENT WILL OVERTAKE THE WHOLE WORLD ( 2 PETER 3 VS 7-16). MEANWHILE, GODS JUDGEMENT BEGINS “ AT THE HOUSE OF GOD “ THE CHURCH ( I PETER 2 VS 5 ). THIS IS A TRUTH THAT SHOULD MOTIVATE US TO BE AS PURE AND OBEDIENT AS POSSIBLE. IN THIS SECTION PETER GIVES US SEVERAL QUESTIONS WE SHOULD ASK OURSELVES AS WE EXAMINE OUR OWN LIVES:

**A. WHY AM I SUFFERING ( 15 )** – WE TALKED ABOUT THE FACT THAT NOT ALL SUFFERING IS A “ **FIERY TRIAL** “ FROM THE LORD. IF A PROFESSED CHRISTIAN BREAKS THE LAW AND GETS INTO TROUBLE OR BECOMES A MEDDLER IN OTHER PEOPLES LIVES, THEN HE OUGHT TO SUFFER ! THE FACT THAT WE ARE CHRISTIANS IS NOT A GUARANTEE THAT WE ESCAPE THE NORMAL CONSEQUENCES OF OUR MISDEEDS. WE MAY NOT BE GUILTY OF MURDER (THOUGH ANGER CAN BE THE SAME AS MURDER IN THE HEART , MATT 5 VS 21 ),

BUT WHAT ABOUT STEALING OR MEDDLING? WHEN ABRAHAM, DAVID, PETER AND OTHER BIBLE "GREATS" DISOBEYED GOD, THEY SUFFERED FOR IT; SO WHO ARE WE THAT WE SHOULD ESCAPE? LET'S BE SURE WE ARE SUFFERING BECAUSE WE ARE CHRISTIANS AND NOT BECAUSE WE ARE CRIMINALS.

**B. AM I ASHAMED, OR AM I GLORIFYING CHRIST ( 16 )** – THIS STATEMENT MUST HAVE REMINDED PETER OF HIS OWN LIFE ( **LUKE 22 VS 54-62** ) JESUS CHRIST IS NOT ASHAMED OF US ( **HEB 2 VS 11** ) – THOUGH MANY TIMES HE SHOULD BE ! THE FATHER IS NOT ASHAMED TO BE CALLED OUR GOD ( **HEB 11 VS 16** ). ON THE CROSS JESUS DISPISED SHAME FOR US ( **HEB 12 VS 2** ), SO SURELY WE CAN BEAR REPROACH FOR HIM AND NOT BE ASHAMED. SEE WARNING IN ( **MARK 8 VS 38** ). " **NOT BE ASHAMED** " IS NEGATIVE ; " GLORIFY GOD IS POSITIVE. IT TAKES BOTH FOR A BALANCED WITNESS. IF WE SEEK TO GLORIFY GOD, THAN WE WILL NOT BE ASHAMED OF THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST. IT WAS THIS DETERMINATION NOT TO BE ASHAMED THAT ENCOURAGED PAUL WHEN HE WENT TO ROME ( **ROM I VS 16** ) WHEN HE SUFFERED IN ROME ( **PHIL 1 VS 20 -21** ) AND WHEN HE FACED MATYRDOM IN ROME ( **2 TIM 1 VS 12** ).

**IV. COMMIT YOURSELF TO GOD (19)** WHEN WE ARE SUFFERING IN THE WILL OF GOD, WE CAN COMMIT OURSELVES IN THE CARE OF GOD.

**DEFINE :** COMMIT – MEANS TO DEPOSIT FOR SAFE KEEPING ( 2 TIM 1 VS 2 )

WHENEVER YOU DEPOSIT YOUR LIFE IN GOD'S BANK, YOU ALWAYS RECEIVE ETERNAL DIVIDENS ON YOUR INVESTMENT

**NOTE:** THIS COMMITMENT IS NOT A SINGLE ACTION, BUT A CONSTANT ATTITUDE. " **BE CONSTANTLY COMMITTING** " IS THE FORCE OF THIS ADMONITION.

**QUESTION :** HOW DO WE DO THIS ? " DOING GOOD "

**ANSWER:** AS WE RETURN GOOD FOR EVIL AND DO GOOD EVEN THOUGH WE SUFFER FOR IT, WE ARE COMMITTING OURSELVES TO GOD SO THAT HE CAN CARE FOR US

**UNSAVED-** HAVE A PRESENT THAT'S CONTROLLED BY THEIR PAST

**CHRISTIANS** – HAVE A PRESENT THAT’S CONTROLLED BY THEIR FUTURE ( PHIL 3 VS 12 – 21 )

IF WE REALLY HAVE HOPE, AND BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS COMING AGAIN, THEN WE WILL OBEY HIS WORD AND START LAYING UP TREASURES AND GLORY IN HEAVEN. IN OUR SERVING WE ARE COMMITTING OURSELVES TO GOD AND MAKING INVESTMENTS FOR THE FUTURE.