Suffering For The Gospel

Ken Chapman · 1 Peter 1:3–7

INTRODUCTION

- Persecution of Christians is neither a thing of the past nor a thing exclusive to distant land.
- The apostle Paul told his young apprentice Timothy that, yea, all that live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.
- So there are different types of persecution, and they're not all physical.

1 Remember That This Suffering Is Temporary

1 Peter 1:1; 1 Peter 1:6; 1 Peter 1:17

- The first thing that he says is to remember that this suffering is temporary.
- Whatever word is used to translate that Greek word in the original means that you have a temporary living status here. You're a pilgrim. This isn't your home.
- Conduct yourselves throughout the time of your sojourning here in fear.
- It's not going to be replaced with just an absence of hardship, it's going to be replaced with glory.
- Not only will our suffering be replaced with glory, but there's going to be a reversal of fortunes.
- The bully is going to be bullied. The persecutor is going to be judged.

2 You're Sharing With Christ Jesus

1 Peter 2:20–23; Acts 5:41

- When you are persecuted, whatever form it might take, you're sharing with Christ Jesus. You're in good company.
- But when you do good and suffer for it, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.
- Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that you should follow in his steps.
- So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.
- When you're ridiculed and mocked and demeaned and belittled, see it as a badge of honor. For so they persecuted Jesus Christ before you.
- No, persecution is not fun. But it's going to be worth it.

3 This Might Actually Be Helping You

1 Peter 1:6–7

- When we're in the midst of persecution, we need to remember this. That this might actually, in a way, be helping you.
- That the genuineness of your faith being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to the praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- This persecution is revealing your faith. The genuineness of your faith.

- How do you know your faith is real, that it's genuine, that it will endure? It's got to get out there and be exposed to examination.
- If I'm willing to endure that, then I can pillow my head at night knowing my faith is real. It stood the test.

4 God's Protection Is There

1 Peter 1:4–5

- In the midst of suffering, you need to remember that God's protection is there.
- Who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time.
- The protection has nothing to do with stopping the persecution, stopping the mocking, the ridicule, the defaming.
- The protection has to do with our reward in heaven, our salvation.
- God is just as much with you in your fiery trial, not maybe to protect you from the fire itself, but to protect your soul and your salvation.
- God is with you, and he is championing you. And he will protect your faith if you'll lean upon him.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Can we help you as you withstand the fiery darts of Satan this morning? Can we help you to encourage you to live this life of faith?**

MY NOTES