

Women's Bible Study  
1Peter 4:17-19  
October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Sharyn Balogh

Today, we will conclude chapter 4 of 1Peter. Keep in mind the necessity of examining your heart – ask God to show you any error in your thinking. Consider the following questions.

Are you able to explain your faith?

Do you know what you believe and why? You may think, 'sure, I can tell someone about Jesus'. However, can you say without a doubt that *you* need Jesus, that *you* are a sinner in need of God's mercy and grace?

Genuine faith and trust in Jesus will lead to eternal salvation; intellectual knowledge and agreement alone, will lead to eternal destruction.

**Psalm 26:2 Examine** [investigate] **me, O LORD, and try me; test** [the refinement of gold, to purge away impurities] **my mind and my heart.**

**2Corinthians 13:5 Test** [scrutinize, examine, prove] **yourselves to see if you are in the faith** [whether you belong; if you rely upon Christ for salvation]; **examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you – unless indeed you fail the test?**

**1Peter 4:17-19** For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER? Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

Chapter 4 of 1Peter began with the suffering of Christ and ends with the honor we have as His children to suffer for His glory. These last three verses continue to expand on the blessings of being a child of God. Even though people may respond to our faith negatively, and difficulties may ensue, the outcome is the proof of our righteousness in Christ. But what about those who are not of the household of God? Our hearts should be moved towards compassion. God allows His children to be disciplined through adversity yet continues to care for them, and He will remain faithful to His promise of eternal salvation; those who have refused His grace and mercy will face eternal destruction.

***For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God.*** We are to expect judgment, *krima*, the effect of trials which prove our faith. Meaning “*the severe trial which would determine character*”, ... “*trials test the value of our profession*”, *Barnes*.

**1Corinthians 11:32** But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord ***so that we will not be condemned along with the world.***

The verse above makes me think of God's faithfulness to His children. Compare the outcome for both the saved and unsaved:

**1Peter 4:13** but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory ***you may rejoice with exultation.***

2Thessalonians 1:8-9 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These **will pay the penalty of eternal destruction**, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

The choice – eternal blessing in God’s presence, or endless pain and separation from God.

*“What shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? How miserable, how dreadful will be the end of all those that would not obey the gospel! Implying, that they shall be in a much worse condition if God take them in hand. If he spare not his children, much less will he his enemies. If the one sip of the cup of God's wrath, the other shall wring out the dregs, and drink them”, Ps 75:8. Matthew Poole's Commentary.*

Consider. Judgment will happen. **Will we be approved by God, having a genuine faith and trust in Jesus? Or will our ‘faith’ be discredited, showing us to be hypocrites, disobedient to God’s word?**

Although our faith is seen through our works; it is not based on works. Going to church, Bible study, even serving each week in ministries, does not mean you are genuinely saved. We can do a plethora of things, fulfill what is expected, check off all the boxes, look good to those around us, and feel good about ourselves. Sometimes this can lead to a false assurance of our salvation. Many individuals will say they are Christians, they will even attest that Jesus died on the cross for their sins, however words do not save. God looks at our heart-change, our yielding to Him as Lord and Savior. The motivation for our works should be our great love for Jesus, to give glory to His name through our obedience to His will. A heart filled with gratitude will seek to please Jesus. A heart filled with greatness for oneself will seek their own pleasure.

Romans 2:5-10 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER?

Verse 18 references Proverbs 11:31 which reads, **Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner (KJV)**

You have probably heard this slang response to trouble – ‘What did you expect? You got what you deserved!’. This response obviously expresses no compassion; however, you can read a certain amount of truth in these words. People can hear the Gospel, they can read of God’s punishment for sin, they might even think there may be a Heaven and Hell. Yet, these things are not real to them, they are not important enough to consider.

There is punishment for sin; there is suffering in this world. I think of God’s judgment on the nation of Israel. The nation of Israel was wandering in the desert and water was scarce. The people gathered against Moses and Aaron to complain of their desperate need. They said they would have rather died and wondered why they had been led to this land of barrenness. Conveniently, they forgot

their sin that had separated them from God. Here's God's chosen people complaining of the consequence of sin. Think! What do we do when we don't like the results of something we have caused? Often, we look to see who we can blame for our predicament!

Moses and Aaron were distraught at the peoples demands, and in Numbers 20:6 it says they fell on their faces before God, asking for His relief. God gave instructions for them to take the rod, speak before the crowd to the rock and it would give them water to drink. Moses followed God's command, but he was angry at the crowd, so he added his own action to the instructions God had given. He not only spoke to the rock, but he also struck it. God loved Moses, but he was punished for his sin and was not allowed to enter the Promised Land. God's children are in a continuous fight with sin. We kick, we fight, we think we have a better way, we get angry, and we blame everyone else except ourselves for our difficulties. Yet, God still loves us, He still makes a way, He still waits patiently for every last one of His children to submit to Him as Lord and follow Him.

If left to ourselves, we would reject God's gift of salvation. We are prideful, thinking we are good enough on our own. We love sin and self. Only through Jesus' great suffering and sacrifice are we saved. This gives us a sense of the perils that await those who reject Him. They will be destroyed; they will be eternally punished.

These truths give us a heart of gratitude and of sorrow. Gratitude for God's patience and mercy towards those who seek to follow Him; sorrow for the pending judgment awaiting those who refuse His gift.

Acts 14:22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. "For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

The godless man and the sinner *"will not be able to stand in God's judgment against the sentence of condemnation then to be pronounced" ... "If the righteous scarcely be saved, the wicked shall certainly perish", Poole.*

Psalm 1:5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

1Corinthians 3:15 If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

It is difficult to think of the reality of God's judgment, yet it will happen.

***What will happen to you? Will you be able to stand because of Jesus? What is your motivation for works – are they done with a heart of joy to bring glory to God or are they done for your own recognition?***

***Is the foundation of your faith built on the true Gospel, or will it falter when you are before the throne of God?***

1Peter 4:19 Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

The *KJV* reads, [commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.](#)

Think of what it means to entrust your soul; to commit the keeping of your soul. If we genuinely entrust ourselves to God, we are eternally safe in His care – not maybe, but, without doubt. God *will* protect His children. He will not falter. You are guaranteed His protection when you trust God for your future. Why? – Because He is faithful even when we are not.

Psalm 31:5 Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have ransomed me, O LORD, God of truth.

2Timothy 1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

### ***Are you confident in God's protection and faithfulness?***

We will walk through this world with difficulty. Sin is around us and seeks to 'trip' us up, yet God is greater, He is stronger. We can trust in His guidance and protection here and look forward to our eventual home in Heaven. We have work to do. If you are bored – get busy serving. If you think no one cares – get busy caring about others. Our life here is not about us rather it is about spreading the truths of the Gospel for God's glory. We must be certain we are not trusting in ourselves to gain righteousness. It is only through God's grace that we are saved.

The challenge – we can say God is faithful and trustworthy. We can believe this is true of His character. However, we need to act in a manner that shows we are completely certain of God's promises. ***Are you able to put aside your fears and questions and continue to walk forward with assurance of God's faithfulness in your life and the lives of others?***

Matthew 9:28 When He entered the house, the blind men came up to Him, and Jesus \*said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They \*said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "It shall be done to you according to your faith."

Isaiah 43:10 "You are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe Me and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, and there will be none after Me.

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Even those things which we may think happen by chance, are in fact purposed by God to grow our faith in Him or to turn our direction when we have strayed. God may choose to use our circumstances to be a witness for His glory as we seek to walk forward even when it is exceedingly difficult. If you find yourself in despair, pray that your faith will increase – *that you will entrust your soul to your faithful Creator in doing what is right.*

Verse 19 begins with the word '*Therefore*', meaning that the following statement logically follows what came before. The suffering of Christians is small compared to the destruction of those who do not follow Jesus. The conclusion – those who are saved eternally will still encounter trials on earth. Yet, even those trials, no matter how severe, will not prove to be stronger than the mighty arm of God's protection. Ultimately, we are covered by the cross of Christ. Knowing this, we can trust in the One who made us for Himself, to help us to accomplish the works He has ordained for us. The following scripture explains the joyful attitude we should exemplify.

James 1:2-4 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

These verses speak to many of our hearts. It is easy for us to become discouraged with our own sin. It is easy for us to become anxious for the outcome of those we love. When you genuinely believe in Jesus, you know without a doubt that everything will be okay. However, there is a great struggle with our emotions and our feelings. We can experience deep hurt and crushing sorrow which seems almost too much to bear. Our feelings often do not match up with what we know to be true. There is a constant need to be reminded of God's trustworthiness and faithfulness to all those who love Him. It's okay if we don't understand; we can still trust in the God who knows all things. Our circumstances might not be the rosy picture we desire to paint, but the final masterpiece will hold far more beauty than we could have imagined.

***Are you able to find rest in God's promises? Are you able to pray that God will accomplish His will in you even if it is through difficulty?***

As your Creator, God purposed you for a reason – His glory. If you have trusted in Him alone, your soul is secure.

*John Wesley's Notes* offers this very succinct summary of 1Peter 4:19 –

***Let them that suffer according to the will of God-Both for a good cause, and in a right spirit.***

***Commit to him their souls-*** (Whatever becomes of the body) as a sacred depositum.

***In well doing-*** Be this your care, to do and suffer well: He will take care of the rest.

***As unto a faithful Creator-*** In whose truth, love, and power, ye may safely trust.

Think of your response to 1Peter 4:17-19.

***How are you encouraged?***

***Is there something you need to address in your own life?***

***What truths can you use to encourage others?***