HOPE and HOLINESS

in a hostile world

STUDIES IN 1 PETER

Hard Lessons for Hard Times

1 Peter 4:13-19

In order to triumph in the face of fiery trials ...

- 1. Expect to suffer for the cause of Christ.
- 2. Rejoice in those trials.

Matt. 5:10-11

"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake."

Matt. 5:12

"Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

You can praise God for trials because ...

- A. You're sharing in the sufferings of Christ.
- B. You're adding to your weight of eternal glory.

2 Cor. 4:17

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;"

Luke 6:22-23

"Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. 23 Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: ..."

You can praise God for trials because ...

- A. You're sharing in the sufferings of Christ.
- B. You're adding to your weight of eternal glory.
- C. The Spirit of God is strengthening you.

Acts 7:55-56

"But he [Stephen], being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, 56 And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God."

In order to triumph in the face of fiery trials ...

- 1. Expect to suffer for the cause of Christ.
- 2. Rejoice in the midst of suffering.
- 3. Examine yourself as you suffer.

Questions to ask ...

- A. Is this trial the result of my own sin?
- B. How can I glorify God through this trial?
- C. Is my outlook guided by an eternal perspective?

Hard lessons we need to learn in order to triumph in hard times ...

- 1. Expect to suffer for the cause of Christ.
- 2. Rejoice in the midst of suffering.
- 3. Examine yourself as you suffer.
- 4. Commit yourself to God's care.