

## **THE CHURCH 59**

### **I PETER 4:12**

12 ¶ Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

### **I PETER 4:13**

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

### **I PETER 4:14**

14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

### **[STOP]**

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### **I PETER 4:15**

15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

### **I PETER 4:16**

16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

### **I PETER 5:7**

7 **\*CASTING** all your **\*CARE** upon him; for he careth for you.

**CASTING:** GREEK LEXICON -- STRONG'S NUMBER 1977  
epirrhpto {ep-ir-hrip'-to}  
to throw upon, place upon

**CARE:** GREEK LEXICON -- STRONG'S NUMBER 3308  
merimna {mer'-im-nah}  
care, anxiety

### **I PETER 5:8**

8 ¶ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

### **I PETER 5:9**

9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

117-2 SMYRNAEAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.4

"Think it not strange concerning the fiery trials that are to try you."

That is what Peter said. Is it strange that God wants us to develop a Christ-like character that comes through suffering? No sir. And we all have trials. We are all tried and chastened as sons. Not one but goes through that. **The church that is not suffering, and is not being tried, hasn't got it--it isn't of God.**

Heb. 12:6,

"For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons."

117-3 SMYRNAEAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK  
CPT.4

Now this special condition in Smyrna must be applied to every age. There is no age free from it. **There is no true believer free from it. This is of God. This is the will of God. It is needful.** We need the Lord to teach us the truth that we are to suffer and be Christ-like in doing it. "Love suffereth long and is kind."

Matthew 5:11-12,

"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

118-1 SMYRNAEAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK  
CPT.4

The cloudy skies and storms of life are no signs of God's disapproval. Neither are bright skies and still waters signs of His love and approval. **His approval of any of us is only IN THE BELOVED.** His love is elective which He had for us before the foundation of the world. Does He love us? Ah yes. But how shall we know? We shall know because He SAID SO, and manifested that He did love us for He brought us to Himself and gave us of His Spirit, placing us as sons. **And how shall I prove my love to Him? By believing what He said, and by conducting myself with joy amidst the trials that He in His wisdom allows to come to pass.**

### **I PETER 5:10**

10 ¶ But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

## **II TIMOTHY 3:12**

12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

## **HEBREWS 10:32**

32 But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were **\*ILLUMINATED**, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;

**ILLUMINATED:** GREEK LEXICON -- STRONG'S NUMBER 5461

photizo {fo-tid'-zo}

give light, bring to light, to cause something to exist and thus come to light and become clear to all

## **HEBREWS 10:33**

33 Partly, whilst ye were made a **\*GAZINGSTOCK** both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.

**GAZINGSTOCK:** GREEK LEXICON -- STRONG'S NUMBER 2301

theatrizo {theh-at-rid'-zo}

to bring upon the stage; to set forth as a spectacle, expose to contempt