

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 02 Mar.....	1 Peter 1:1-12.....	Our Inheritance
2) 09 Mar.....	1 Peter 1:13-25.....	Our Mandate
3) 16 Mar.....	1 Peter 2:1-10.....	Our Identify
4) 23 Mar.....	1 Peter 2:11-25.....	Our Witness
5) 30 Mar.....	1 Peter 3:1-12.....	Our Relationships
6) 06 Apr.....	1 Peter 3:13-22.....	Our Defense
7) 13 Apr.....	1 Peter 4:1-11.....	Our Faith
8) 20 Apr.....	Mark 15-16.....	EASTER – Our Savior
9) 27 Apr.....	1 Peter 4:12-19.....	Our Savior
10) 04 May.....	1 Peter 5:1-14.....	Be Prepared
11) 11 May.....	2 Peter 1:1-21.....	Be Equipped
12) 18 May.....	2 Peter 2:1-22 / Jude 1-25.....	Be Alert
13) 25 May.....	2 Peter 3:1-18.....	Be Encouraged

INTRODUCTION

- Peter again stresses we should expect trouble in life
 1. Persecution should be the norm for Christians – and in many parts of the world, it is
 2. Those who suffer for Christ will receive special rewards
 3. Besides the prospect of a glorious future, we have the Spirit of God for our support and comfort HERE and NOW
 4. It is an honor to suffer for Christ, but not as a troublemaker
 5. And, though afflictions begin with us, the weight of the storm will fall upon unbelievers
- So, we are encouraged to persevere in our faith, and trust that all events will work out for our good and for God's glory

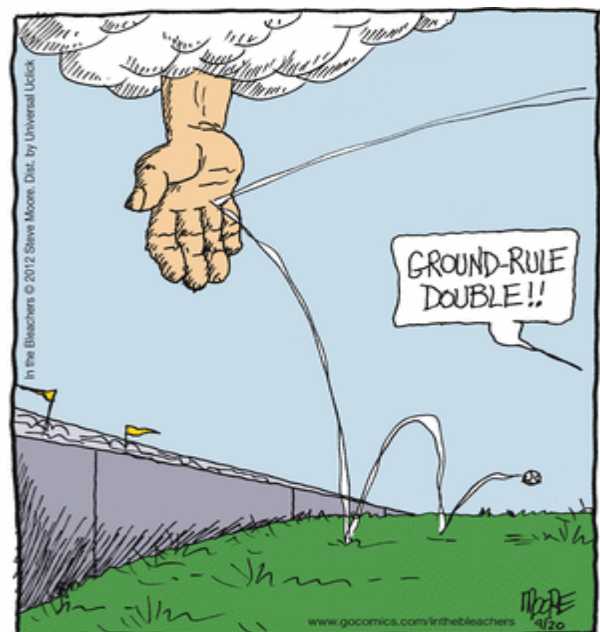
Passage	Comments
1Peter 4:12	<p>Tough Testing Should be Expected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What "fiery trials" are common in our day & age? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Has any of us "resisted unto blood" yet?.....Heb 12:4 ♦ Neither had they (YET) ♦ But they, like us, are feeling the heat for being against what God is against – murdering of infants (abortions), excessive partying, adultery, sleeping around, loose morals, same-sex marriage • What would we be willing to lose our job over? • Is there enough evidence for us to be convicted for being a Christian?
4:13	<p>Rejoice When We Suffer Like Christ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christ takes persecution personally. When Paul was struck down on his way to persecute Christians, Jesus didn't ask him "Why do you persecute Christians?" but "Why do you persecute ME?"..... Acts 9:4 • Unbelievers view Christians as the last obstacle to achieving a truly secular world – free of God & morals • Our joy in suffering for Christ doesn't come from the temporary pain we might experience, but from realizing the permanent and great reward that awaits us
4:14	<p>Know the Holy Spirit "Rests" on You When Tested</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Holy Spirit has a special function during times of persecution – He gives His Saints the words to say • "When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit"..... Mark 13:11
4:15-16	<p>Avoid Being Shamed by Sin and Seek God's Glory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes Christians mistake rightful disdain by their friends, family, and coworkers for godly persecution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ For example, a Christian is reprimanded at work because his "witnessing" is truly disruptive ♦ Family avoids some of their "Christian" relative(s) because of condescending attitude or weirdness

Passage	Comments
4:17-18	<p>Judgment Begins at Home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can God judge a sinful world when His own house is dirty? God must first clean His house • God has a specific order or priorities to accomplish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The power of God for salvation is available to all; to the Jew first, then to the Greek Rom 1:16 ♦ Tribulation & anguish, upon everyone that does evil, the Jew first, then the Gentile Rom 2:9 ♦ But glory, honor, and peace, to everyone that does good, to the Jew first, then to the Gentile .. Rom 2:10 • v18. Peter quotes from the Septuagint translation of Proverbs 11:31 – "If the righteous will be rewarded in the earth, how much more the wicked and the sinner?" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Same concept – God settles up with His people first, then everyone else – watch out Rev 20:11-15
4: 19	<p>How Do We Trust Our Souls to An Unseen God?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A parallel passage is Gal 6:9, "Do not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" • Jesus said "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit" – and He died a horrible death..... Luke 23:46 • "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him"..... Job 13:15 • Do we have this kind of FAITH?

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Western Christians may not be suffering as most Christians are around the world, so we actually have a heavier responsibility
- While it is still day (or while we have it relatively easy) we MUST earnestly be about the work of God – spending more time praying for the persecuted, giving, sharing, & loving sacrificially
- Shame on us if we are slack in God's work – "cursed is He who doesn't pick up his sword" (aka. responsibilities) [Jeremiah 48:10](#)

NEXT WEEK: 1Peter 5:1-14. Peter challenges the Elders, the young people, and all of us to act responsibly, to humble ourselves before God and before one another, to resist the Devil, and to enduring suffering "for a little while" so we may be perfected in Christ



When Does God Intervene in Our Lives?
 "[God] examines us every morning and tries us in every moment" [Job 7:18](#)