

FIRST PETER 4:15-19 "Especially In Trials, Commit Yourself To Your Faithful Creator."

Peter has been encouraging Christians to realize that despite how the world may treat us, because of our faith in Christ, we should rejoice that we have the opportunity to represent Him and that in our rejoicing we may show how God is at work in and through us for His good pleasure.

Attitude is everything when we encounter various trials in this life because it shows how we can depend on and trust in the faithfulness of our loving God and Savior. As we come before Him in trust it's amazing how He can fill us with His Spirit and lift us up or take us through.

God wants the world to see that faithful loving attitude in our lives as we look beyond the circumstance and look to Him seeking to please Him instead of wanting to please self in a self-pity mode. When we take the latter attitude there's nothing lovely the world sees and wants to have.

They simply see what the rest of the world has and that is a lack of hope and joy because they have no assurance that what lies beyond tomorrow will be any better. In Christ we have the assurance of eternal life and the assurance that Christ is with us today. And that is where we derive our joy if we're willing to trust and abide in the One who's given us this life.

Peter was giving these Christians the hope that despite the fact that they may have to suffer for their faith they are not forgotten or abandoned by God. Just the opposite is true.

1PE 4:14 "If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you."

But Peter also wants us to understand that God doesn't smile on sinful behavior.

1PE4:15 "If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler."

Many of these people prior to coming to Christ had sordid pasts. In fact, the apostle Paul made mention of this in his letter to the Corinthians.

1CO 6:9-11 "Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

As new creatures in Christ we are no longer to be driven by the old nature which manifested itself in some of these ways Paul mentions. If we do and we suffer for it we deserve to suffer the consequences and God will not be pleased. But to suffer for what is of God is nothing to be ashamed of. This is Peter's point.

16 "However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name."

To suffer as a Christian means to suffer for the name of Christ or as the result of faithfully representing Christ.

The NIV takes the last part of verse 16 and puts the emphasis on praising God that you bear His name under trials. Though this is a truth of God's word the more literal translation here in Peter would give the sense of actively glorifying God with your actions before the world in that situation.

The NAS puts it "but if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God."

The sense here is to show your praise in obedience despite the trial and to actively exalt Christ in the process knowing that you are a bearer of the name of your Lord and Savior. But, this next verse is rather interesting.

1PE 4:17 "For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?"

We need to keep the context in mind here. It has to do with the fiery ordeals and trials of life that believers face. Two scenarios are mentioned in light of that suffering. One scenario has people in the church suffering from sinful behavior and the consequences of that behavior, including being a "murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;" (**1 Peter 4:15**).

The other scenario includes suffering as a Christian, which is to say, suffering as one who follows Christ and the commands of Christ found in his word. At this point Peter doesn't give a list of examples as he did with those who suffer for sinful reasons.

But the implication is obvious. Those things that Peter would have these Christians follow have already been demonstrated both through the teachings of the apostles and the example the apostles and others were giving them with their own lives, especially the teachings and life of Christ Himself and this is something Peter has already mentioned earlier in this letter.

1 Peter 2:21-23 ²¹ For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, ²² WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; ²³ and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

Peter is saying, walk in a way that imitates our Lord and Savior whose greatest example of service was to give His life for His sheep. And to the degree that Peter or Paul walked faithfully with the Lord, imitate that in your own life with a life of gratitude toward the One who gave you this life.

1 Corinthians 10:31 -33 ³⁰ If I partake with thankfulness, why am I slandered concerning that for which I give thanks? ³¹ Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. ³² Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; ³³ just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the *profit* of the many, so that they may be saved.

^{NAU} **1 Corinthians 11:1** Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

Paul has an entire section in his letter to the Ephesians which puts the lives of these believers into perspective from both their former lives and their present lives in Christ and then charges them to live in the new life they have in Christ as they abandon their former lives.

Ephesians 4:22-32 ²² that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, ²³ and that you be renewed in

the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. ²⁵ Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE *of you* WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. ²⁶ BE ANGRY, AND *yet* DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not give the devil an opportunity. ²⁸ He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need. ²⁹ Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a *word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

And then he adds this in the beginning of the next chapter.

Ephesians 5:1-11 ^{NAU} Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; ² and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. ³ But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; ⁴ and *there must be no* filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ⁵ For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not be partakers with them; ⁸ for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light ⁹ (for the fruit of the Light *consists* in all goodness and righteousness and truth), ¹⁰ trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

This was a problem in the early church just as it is a problem in the church today, and that is, people who simply name the name of Christ, but do not follow in the ways of Christ. Naming the name of Christ does not make you a Christian. It is those whose lives have been changed by God Himself, (born again), and who have become new creatures in Christ through a genuine faith in Him

alone, and show that to be a reality as they walk in the Spirit to the glory of God.

This does not mean real Christians will not sin. Unfortunately, we still do. But our pattern of life that was self-evident, outside of Christ, will no longer be the norm as we now have a new life and a new spirit that has been made alive in Christ.

What Peter and Paul are describing, as it relates to those in the church who only pay lip service to Christ, is a phenomenon that our Lord clearly described in His parable of the wheat and the tares.

Matthew 13:25-30 ²⁵ "But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ "But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. ²⁷ "The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' ²⁸ "And he said to them, 'An enemy has done this!' The slaves said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?' ²⁹ "But he said, 'No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ 'Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn."

In other words, there will always be those within the church who will not be true believers, who are intermingled among those who are. And though you and I are obliged to take their profession of faith in Christ at face value, we are also called to encourage everyone in the body to walk faithfully in the truth of God's word in love. And though we may be discerning when it comes to those playing at Christianity and those who are faithful to the Lord, in the final analysis only God knows the heart of such a person and He alone will be the final judge.

And this is the point Peter is making in our text. If there are those in the body of Christ whose lives do not match what we are instructed concerning what a life looks like in Christ, then it must be understood that God does visit His church with judgment to either correct the individual believer or to cut out the one disturbing the sheep.

1 Peter 4:17 ¹⁷ 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?

Judgment on the household of God is not a new concept. In the days of national Israel being called out by God to represent Him in this world, the Lord made it clear to them that He would be their God and they would be His people.

But together with this our Lord also made it clear that if His covenant people, who are called by His name, did not follow Him, but sought after the gods of other nations, thus proving themselves to be harlots in the spiritual sense, He would visit them with judgment.

^{NAU} **Isaiah 1:21** How the faithful city has become a ^aharlot, She *who* was full of justice! Righteousness once lodged in her, But now murderers.

Ezekiel 7:1-9 ^{NAU} Moreover, the word of the LORD came to me saying, ² "And you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD to the land of Israel, 'An end! The end is coming on the four corners of the land. ³ 'Now the end is upon you, and I will send My anger against you; I will judge you according to your ways and bring all your abominations upon you. ⁴ 'For My eye will have no pity on you, nor will I spare *you*, but I will bring your ways upon you, and your abominations will be among you; then you will know that I am the LORD!' ⁵ "Thus says the Lord GOD, 'A disaster, unique disaster, behold it is coming! ⁶ 'An end is coming; the end has come! It has awakened against you; behold, it has come! ⁷ 'Your doom has come to you, O inhabitant of the land. The time has come, the day is near-- tumult rather than joyful shouting on the mountains. ⁸ 'Now I will shortly pour out My wrath on you and spend My anger against you; judge you according to your ways and bring on you all your abominations. ⁹ 'My eye will show no pity nor will I spare. I will repay you according to your ways, while your abominations are in your midst; then you will know that I, the LORD, do the smiting.

What we see here is essentially an apostasy away from the one true God and an embracing of the world and its ways, and as a result the Lord puts an end to the visible representation of His people found in the nation of Israel. In the context of 1Peter he is not dealing so much with apostasy at this point as he is with an attitude of not leaving behind the things of the world, as some of these people were still hanging on to their former lives.

Now again, how many of those were not truly born again is something that only God ultimately knew, but it was still a warning to the entire visible church to consider how they were walking with

Christ and to repent of their sin as they turned back to the Lord of glory.

Not to repent, again, would necessitate the Lord Himself intervening either with individuals in the body or with the entire church if it continued to allow such things. This is clearly seen in a little different context as Jesus Christ confronts seven different churches in the book of Revelation, some of whom got a sharp rebuke from our Lord.

Revelation 2:1-5 ^{NAU} "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: ² 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them *to be* false; ³ and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. ⁴ 'But I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵ 'Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place-- unless you repent.

To remove their lampstand is to remove their light and influence in the world for Christ. So, this clearly is God's judgment on the household of God in a N.T. setting.

The same warning was given to the church at Sardis though their situation was a little different from that of Ephesus.

Revelation 3:1-3 ^{NAU} "To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. ² 'Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. ³ 'So remember what you have received and heard; and keep *it*, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

God has called a people out from the world for a reason. And that reason is to bring Him glory. Whether it was Israel of old or the new covenant people of God called the Israel of God or the church, the visible body of Christ is not exempt from God's care and concern.

As I said, the immediate context in which Peter is speaking has more to do with the moral behavior of the church at a particular time in history, but this ungodly behavior can become so pervasive that it no longer continues to fully represent the true church of Christ, which at some point will abandon the faith and deny the Master, primarily because the ungodly behavior will be coupled with ungodly teaching.

This leads to what is known as the great apostasy of the church. And in Peter's second letter to the church he addresses this as he gives a recap of rebellious creatures, both angels and men in history, whose judgment was sure. But, in the midst of such unrighteousness God rescues those who are His.

2 Peter 2:1-9 ^{NAU} But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. ² Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; ³ and in *their* greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. ⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; ⁵ and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; ⁶ and *if* He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing *them* to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly *lives* thereafter; ⁷ and *if* He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men ⁸ (for by what he saw and heard *that* righteous man, while living among them, felt *his* righteous soul tormented day after day by *their* lawless deeds), ⁹ *then* the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,

It is this lawless attitude that will finally lead to the apostasy of the church that will be the key to the return of Christ known as the Great day of the Lord, the day of judgment, the last day, the last trumpet, the great white throne judgment, the great day of God's wrath, and Paul speaks of this as well when addressing the Thessalonians.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 ^{NAU} Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering

together to Him, ² that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³ Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

Paul makes it clear that regarding the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, (and again this is a reference to the last day and all that takes place on that day as we've already discussed), the apostasy must come first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.

For the sake of this study in 1Peter, we won't go into much detail regarding the man of lawlessness, but the word of God makes it clear that this does not have to be one man, but men in general whose hatred of God will be made manifest even in the church during the last days as false teachers and prophets move the church away from Christ and toward themselves as they elevate themselves to a position reserved only for Christ.

And so, in this way, we see that there is a spirit of the man of lawlessness that includes many men throughout the last days, just as there is a spirit of antichrist that John addresses in his first epistle.

1 John 2:18 ¹⁸ Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

1 John 2:22 ²² Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.

1 John 4:2-3 ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

2 John 1:7 ⁷ For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ *as* coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

The deceiver, the antichrist, the man of lawlessness, the son of destruction all address the enemy that was foretold in the garden of Eden who is influenced by the enemy of God, Satan.

Genesis 3:14-15 ¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life; ¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

From the beginning, after the fall, God made it clear to both Satan and man that there would be war, enmity, between the two seeds. And this war will culminate at the last day when God brings judgment.

This is the war that we see in the book of Revelation.

Revelation 12:17 ¹⁷ So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

This war has been going on for a long time, but praise God, it will one day come to an end as Jesus Christ Himself returns to make all things right as He restores paradise for His people and condemns those who wage war with His bride.

This will be the final battle that the seed of Satan will attempt to bring upon God's people. But again, keep in mind though the battle may include the physical aspects of tribulation, it is still first and foremost a spiritual battle against Christ Himself who has already won the battle at the cross and His resurrection.

Revelation 17:14 ¹⁴ "These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him *are the* called and chosen and faithful."

The imagery of Revelation shows the battle and the war that was promised in Genesis 3, but to confuse the imagery with literal battles is to miss the point of what this war is all about and how we as believers are to fight this battle.

Ephesians 6:12-17 ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world

forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, ¹⁵ and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; ¹⁶ in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*. ¹⁷ And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

The final battle will include, but not be limited to, the judgment of the visible church, (by that time only a shell of the real church that will then be identified as the harlot.)

Revelation 17:16-18 ¹⁶ "And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire. ¹⁷ "For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled. ¹⁸ "The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth."

The seed of Satan, by the time of the end, will have infiltrated the visible church in such a way that all vestiges of the truth of the gospel and the word of God will have been pushed to the side. Satan will be unbound during this time to deceive, if possible, even the elect in the body of Christ.

Matthew 24:24 ²⁴ "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

Of course, God will not allow His elect, the invisible, true church, to be ultimately deceived. In fact, in the final days God's true people, His real church, are called to come out of the harlot who masquerades as the church of Christ.

Revelation 18:2-5 ² And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird. ³ "For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed *acts of* immorality with her, and

the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality." ⁴ I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues; ⁵ for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

Notice the parallel between the harlots of O.T. Israel and the church today in the following verses.

Jeremiah 2:20 ²⁰ "For long ago I broke your yoke *And* tore off your bonds; But you said, 'I will not serve!' For on every high hill And under every green tree You have lain down as a harlot.

Revelation 19:2-3 ² BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and HE HAS AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS BOND-SERVANTS ON HER." ³ And a second time they said, "Hallelujah! HER SMOKE RISES UP FOREVER AND EVER."

The same harlot described as the "called out people" of Israel of the O.T., who whored after other gods, is the same harlot described as the one who will finally be judged once and for all in the book of Revelation.

It is the same harlot identified as the "called out people" of the church. But only the true called out elect will find safety in the blood of Christ, while the harlot, drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, will be destroyed.

Now, again, I realize that Peter is not moving in this direction in his first letter as he points out that judgment begins with the household of God, but as we have just seen, there will be a judgment on the household of God that is a household in name only in the end, while the true house of God will come through in the victory that is found in Christ.

But interestingly enough, Peter will pick up this theme in his second letter when he identifies false teachers who promote sensuality that is tied to their teachings, which will ultimately lead to the apostasy of the church and subsequent judgment from God.

But it is worth noting that we who are part of the visible church today do not escape the judgment in terms of God's admonition to faithfully represent Him through His church. For the true believer it is not a judgment of wrath, but a judgment akin to discipline.

And so, Peter's words should ring true to we who are born again believers who take these words to heart so as not to grieve the Holy Spirit of God.

1 Peter 4:17-18 ¹⁷ 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? ¹⁸ AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER?

We can be sure that if God judges the household of God He will most certainly judge those who do not obey the gospel of God which will include those both inside and outside of the visible church. This is a warning to the world that must accompany the gospel of Jesus Christ.

If we, as believers, dismiss the bad news of sin and rebellion against a holy God and its consequences, then we water down the good news of the gospel. There is no real appreciation of good news if not coupled with the bad. We need to share both in love.

But in sharing the truth we may find ourselves on the receiving end of the wrath of man. But our Lord promises that He will be with us and empower us by His grace and strength to go forward.

1 Peter 4:19 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.

We serve a faithful Creator. Peter could easily have said we serve a faithful God, or faithful Savior, or a faithful Lord. But in pointing out that we serve a faithful Creator he cuts through to the real issue and that is that as Creator He is all those things and is the only God to whom we must give an account.

The world is captivated with the notion that the cosmos came from nothing, through a big bang which, by default, consisted of something. We exist because our Creator created and though the world will deny the Creator Peter makes it clear that we understand that we come from a Creator who has placed in each man an understanding of this, though they deny it.

Paul expounds on this a bit.

Romans 1:20-23 ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been

clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. ²¹ For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

We who have embraced Christ as Lord and Savior have also embraced Him as Creator.

Hebrews 1:1-2 ^{NAU} God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ² in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

^{NAU} **John 1:3** All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

We serve an awesome God who is Creator of all and for this reason we can entrust our souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

Peter certainly knew of the trials that God's people can suffer, but he also knew who was holding him to the end, even as Paul did. I'll end with these words from our God and Creator through the pen of Paul.

2 Corinthians 1:8-10 ⁸ For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came *to us* in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; ⁹ indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; ¹⁰ who delivered us from so great a *peril of death*, and will deliver *us*, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us,