

"Faithful in the Fire"
1 Peter 4:12-19

1. Peter warns his readers about the coming of a more intense period of persecution. And what does he tell them *not to do* when faced with painful trials (v.12)?
2. Knowing that fiery trials allows us to be further identified with Christ, what does Peter tell believers *to do* (v.13)?
3. Read Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:11. What is His message?

If a believer is insulted because of the name of Christ, what does Peter say we should be considered? Why? (v.14)

4. There is no shame for those who suffer for their faith as a Christian. This is only the third time the word for "Christian" occurs in the Bible (Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28) and was probably used as an insult by unbelievers at the time. But what should the Name of Christ compel us to do (v.16)?
5. Peter wrote in 1:6-7 of trials that refine and prove one's faith. Now in 4:17, he adds that God also may allow persecution in our lives as a means to discipline those in the family of God. How does Hebrews 12:7 also support Peter?
6. Suffering is a part of the Christian life and Peter encourages suffering saints to endure through Christlike faith. Just as Christ trusted Himself to His Father, so too should believers commit themselves to our faithful Creator God. When we take our eyes off Christ, what thoughts tend to enter our minds when faced with suffering?
7. Did you receive any other take-aways from this week's sermon? Jot those down.