

# “Stand Fast!”

## The First Epistle of Peter

Lesson 8, for Sunday, December 9, 2001

**Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

**1 Peter 4:11 NAS**

### The Outline

#### III. The spiritual significance of suffering (4:1-4:19)

- A. Physical suffering a type of death to the flesh life (4:1-4:6).
  - 1. Christ's death the example and empowerment (4:1a).
  - 2. Dying to the sin nature; alive to God (4:1b-4:6).
- B. The “crucified Life” characterized by divine love (4:7-4:11).
- C. The fires of persecution seen as purifying (4:12-19).

### The Argument

Do the right thing! Be of the same mind as your Savior. and make His priorities your priorities. Since you have, through baptism, died with Him, you ought to be dead to sin, and living for your Lord. There are always some folks who will try to get you to sin with them by ridiculing your godly behavior, but remember that their judgment will most certainly come.

Do the right thing! Love one another, extend your helping hand to one another, and do for people what the Lord has provided you to do for them. Speak out for the Lord, and do it in the strength that He supplies. You will, by your words and actions, Glorify God.

Do the right thing! You may suffer in this life, and if you do, make sure it is in the Lord's service and not for some wrong you ought to avoid. There is no need to be ashamed if you suffer for our Savior, for you will be exonerated completely, in due time. Trust the Lord completely with your life.

Do the right thing!

### The Key Words

**Arm Yourself:** ὀπλιζομαι -- prepare (a figurative extension of meaning of ὀπλιζομαι 'to arm oneself,' not occurring in the NT) to prepare, with focus upon the process of equipping - 'to prepare, to make ready.' Example: 'prepare yourselves with the same insight' or 'get ready by having the same understanding' 1 Pe 4.1.

**Purpose:** ἔννοια -- (a) way of thinking; (b) intention: a particular manner or way of thinking - 'way of thinking, disposition, manner of thought, attitude. Examples: '(such a person is) puffed up, for no reason at all, by his human way of thinking' Col 2.18; 'at that time you were strangers and enemies because of the manner in which you thought and the evil things you did' Col 1.21; 'you too must strengthen yourselves with the same way of thinking' 1 Pe 4.1.

**Gift:** χάρισμα -- gift (derivative of χαρίζομαι 'to give graciously and generously') that which is given freely and generously - 'gift, gracious gift.' Examples: 'I will send these men to convey your gracious gift to Jerusalem' 1 Cor 16.3; 'in order that I might share with you some spiritual gift' Ro 1.11; 'but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord' Ro 6.23.

**Steward:** οἰκονόμος -- (a) manager of a household, (b) administrator: one who is in charge of running a household - 'manager of a household, steward.' Examples: 'there was a rich man who had a manager of his household ... wasting his master's money' Lk 16.1; It may be necessary in some languages to indicate that οἰκονόμος was a person hired to engage in a particular activity, and therefore in Lk 16.1 it may be necessary to say 'there was a rich man who had hired a man to manage his household.'

**Glorify:** δοξάζω -- (a) praise, (b) honor, (c) glorify: to speak of something as being unusually fine and deserving honor Examples: 'like the show-offs do ... so that people will praise them' Mt 6.2; 'why is this foreigner the only one who came back to praise God?' Lk 17.18.

### The Quotations

**1 Peter 4:18** “And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner?” Proverbs 11:31