

8 TESTING HOPE

4 12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 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. 15 If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. 16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 And,

"If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

1. What attitude should we have to our suffering and why? (v12-13)
Has this usually been your attitude? Could it be in future?
2. For Peter's audience, their suffering was persecution for following Jesus.
What extra benefit does that kind of suffering bring? (v14-16)
3. V17 refers to the common idea in the prophets of Episode 2 that God will always judge his own people before others. V18 quotes [Proverbs](#) to say the ungodly will get what they deserve even more so than the righteous.
What does say about the fate of non-believers?
How should that motivate believers?
4. How well does v19 summarise the letter so far?
Are you fully convinced to do what it says? Why or why not?
5. Are you fully convinced to do v19? Why or why not?

