Lesson 8 – October 23 1 Peter 4:12-19

When Ridiculed

Our Living Hope

FBC Woodville Sunday School Class Michael G. Maness see PreciousHeart.net/SS

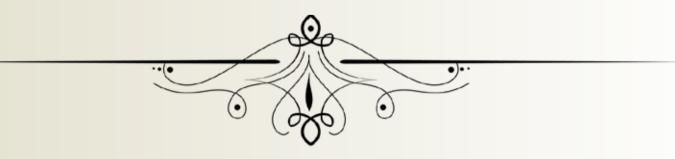


13. Nov 27 With Anticipation 2 Pet. 3:1-13, 17-18

Lesson Author's Theme

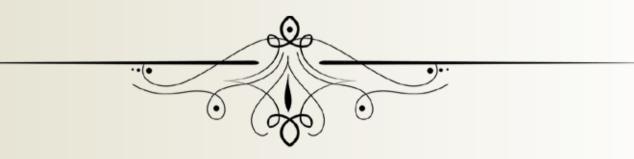
Believers honor God by faithfulness through persecution.

- 1 Peter 4
- 12-14 Expect Ridicule Ridicule a Blessing
- **15-16 Represent Jesus Well Bear the Name**
- **17-19 Focus on the Creator Continue Good**



Key Verse 1 Peter 4:19

So those who suffer according to God's will should, while doing what is good, entrust themselves to a faithful Creator.



Alternate Title

Trust Your Creator



Creation of Adam, part of fresco, Sistine Chapel ceiling by Michelangelo between 1508-12

Rarely in the course of human civilization ...



And of grand Sunday School classes ... has an illustration bridged the previous with today's lesson so superbly ...

God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the world. Then God made the Earth round ... and He laughed and laughed and *laughed*.



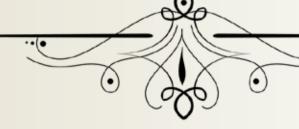
Alternate Title

Trust Your Creator



Creation of Adam, part of fresco, Sistine Chapel ceiling by Michelangelo between 1508-12

Starting with the LAST verse ... FIRST Our Key Verse is 1 Peter 4:19 So those who suffer according to God's will should, while doing what is good, ENTRUST themselves to a FAITHFUL CREATOR





FAITHFUL CREATOR We know so much ... and so little In the Beginning ... God I am the Alpha and the Omega ... And ... In the End ... God I stand at the door and knock ...



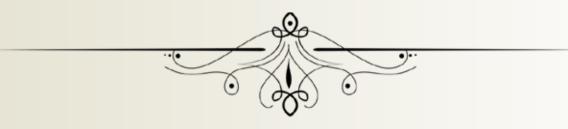
FAITHFUL CREATOR

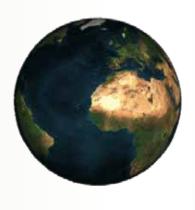
Colossians 1:16-17

For by him were ALL THINGS CREATED, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers:

all things were created by him, and for him:

And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.





Alternate Title

Trust Your Creator



Creation of Adam, part of fresco, Sistine Chapel ceiling by Michelangelo between 1508-12



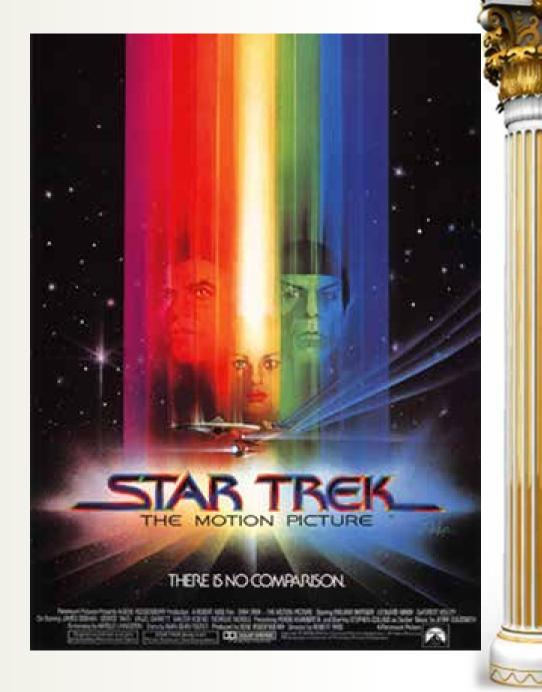
Star Trek—The Motion Picture, 1979 1st in movie franchise ...

In 2271 an unknown, cloud-like entity descends upon several Klingon vessels and destroys them.

Headed for earth, the Federation sends the U.S.S. Enterprise ...

Admiral Kirk assumes command, to the dismay of Capt. Will Dekcer.

On board is a Deltan navigator, Ilia, who is beautiful BALD woman ...



The U.S.S. Enterprise is disabled, and Spock attempts to communicate with the cloud-spaceship by sending messages of non-aggression.



Crew watches helplessly as the probe accesses the *Enterprise*'s consoles and computers.

The U.S.S. Enterprise is seized by a tractor beam and pulled inside to a large chamber.

This entity-spaceship is YUUGE!

I think the movie spends 30 mins travelling inside ...

PLANET-sized machine destroys all LIFE on its way to earth!

SEARCHING for its









V'Ger, the entity in charge of all, is studying the carbon-based units—*humans*—that are "infesting" the starship.

Searching for its CREATOR ... its CREATOR ...

She guides the Enterprise for a meeting ...

V'Ger heading to Earth to join its

"Creator."

V'Ger is obsessed with finding its "Creator"

Destroying all carbonbased life forms in route





Why does V'Ger travel to the third planet?



To find the Creator

Find the Creator? ... Whose ...

What does V'Ger want with the Creator?





To join with Him.

To join with the Creator? How?

V'Ger and the Creator will become one.

And who is the Creator?



The Creator is that which created V'Ger.



Who is V'Ger?



V'Ger is that which seeks the Creator

Kirk looks dumbfounded ... glances to Com. Spock Perhaps all thought, "Women?!?"



Captain Kirk and landing party come face-to-face with V'Ger

Oddest anti-climatic scene in movie history ...

Capt. Kirk whips the dust off of this satellite ...

we see V'Ger's FULL NAME

VOYAGER

What?

WE are the "Creator."

Our satellite had MORPHED, EVOLVED into an intergalactic SUPERPOWER ...

To some, the first full-length Star Trek movie became the "most beautiful"

To others it seemed almost shake-your-head idiotic

Movie's major theme:

We, "the Creator," made

a machine that GREW on its own

then started to search for us ...

If we did not know HOW TO CONNECT!



```
1 Peter 4:19 – last verse ...
```

Peter CLOSES this lesson with: So those who suffer according to God's will should, while doing what is good, entrust themselves to a FAITHFUL CREATOR Peter asks us to entrust ourselves to our CREATOR ... In times of injustice ... in times of ridicule ... We do NOT have far to go to find our CREATOR Our Creator has SOUGHT US out ... God in Christ even went from Heaven to Hades and Back for us

Father God can be closer than a brother

Peter begins, once again, encouraging ... building courage

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 as you share in the sufferings of the Messiah, so that you may also rejoice with great joy at the revelation of His glory. ¹⁴ If you are ridiculed for the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

FIRST: I must say, that does NOT mean "Be Happy" at beatings!

- NOT mean "Be Happy" at Humiliation
- NOT mean "Be Happy" at Ridicule and Scorn

I know NO ONE who can TURN ON their "Happy Chip"

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.

Fiery Ordeal – FIRE that Refines

As though you are proven IN THE FIRE ...

Smelting Process separates PURE Metals from ore through melting ...

Peter told them, "Do not be surprised!"

Do not consider "FIERY ORDEAL" strange!

I'm pretty sure, even CERTAIN that NONE of us want a "Fiery Ordeal"



or, rather, ANOTHER "Fiery Ordeal" in their lives.

Don't be surprised, as though something strange ... Peter continues,

¹³ But rejoice as you share in the sufferings of the Messiah, so that you may also rejoice with great joy at the revelation of His glory.
 ¹⁴ If you are ridiculed for the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

None of us have a computer "Happy Chip" that we can "FLIP ON" Yet we can choose to "*REJOICE*" ... and, this, Peter explains We are to REJOICE for TWO reasons:

1. Share in the sufferings of the Messiah, i.e., Christ

27

2. Rejoice now so that FUTURE Joy will increase at the revelation of His glory

- **Rejoicing for TWO reasons:**
 - **1.** Share in the sufferings of the Messiah, i.e., Christ
 - 2. Rejoice now so that FUTURE Joy will increase at the revelation of His glory
- What means "Share in Sufferings of Christ"???
- Can I be a GOOD Christian WITHOUT "sharing in suffering"?
- Sure you can ... again, remember, if you have the POWER to avoid the suffering ... and you DO AVOID it ... it's okay
- IF . . . IF . . . IF you avoid the suffering WITHOUT denying Christ
- Peter, I think, is preparing the Christians in Asia Minor & Galatia for SUFFERING that they CANNOT avoid
 - **Especially CANNOT** avoid WITHOUT Denying Christ

Rejoicing for TWO reasons:

- **1.** Share in the sufferings of the Messiah, i.e., Christ
- 2. Rejoice now so that FUTURE Joy will increase at

the revelation of His glory

Of all people, Peter and Paul KNOW about SUFFERING for Christ

Especially SUFFERING they CANNOT AVOID without DENYING Christ

Especially SUFFERING they CANNOT AVOID without DENYING Christ *Question:*

How can we SHARE in the Sufferings of Christ? Notice that Peter does NOT explain "How" That is the difference between Peter, then, in A.D. 63 And us ... today We seem, perhaps, to have trouble with that

... just a little

SUFFERING they CANNOT AVOID without DENYING Christ

How can we SHARE in the Sufferings of Christ?

Let me offers something to you ... brothers and sisters ... "vs. 13"

¹³ But rejoice as you share in the sufferings of the Messiah, so that you may also rejoice with great joy at the revelation of His glory.

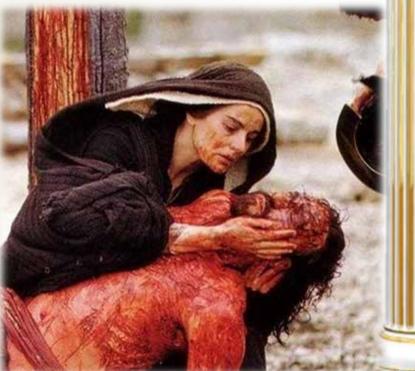
I think this is LESS an "order" ... that it is LESS an imperative ...

And much more DESCRIPTIVE ... like in the "realm of the spirit"

This verse DESCRIBES a reality for the Christian, and a "reality" that ONLY the Christian can enjoy

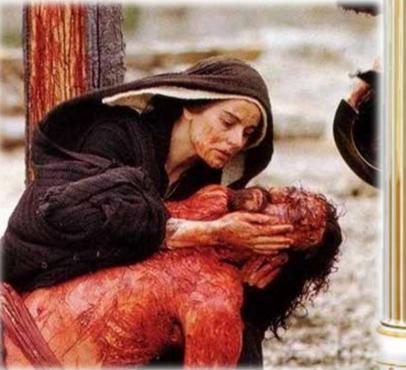
Sharing in the "sufferings of Christ" . . . oh, savor this

Share in Sufferings of Christ—LOVE GOD Two Great Commands . . . NOT MERELY commands ... they are also **PRIVILEGES** ALL the LAW summed in "Love God" and "Love Others" **Purpose of LAW is for OUR benefit, welfare** BEST of this world is in LOVING God and Others—BEST! Share in the Sufferings of Christ Look at Mary, the Mother of Jesus **HERE'S the SECRET:** When you LOVE – you WILL SHARE!

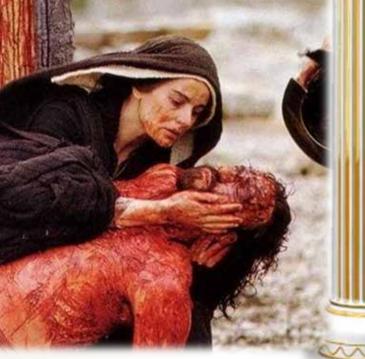


Share in Sufferings of Christ—LOVE GOD

KNOW THIS dear and sweet brothers and sisters . . . It was NOT just Christ who was crucified on the Cross! Those, like Mary, who LOVED Him ... Went through and SUFFERED with Him ... When we LOVE – oh, we SHARE ...



Share in Sufferings of Christ—LOVE GOD Not really a secret, because Peter has been HAMMERING at this from the start ... Paul does too ... When you LOVE – you WILL SHARE! When you LOVE – you CANNOT help it! When you LOVE – your soul is knit with ... When you LOVE – your heart's shackled to ... When you LOVE – you WILL SHARE! So, you SUFFER for Christ's sake, **BECAUSE** you LOVE Christ Rejoice at the LOVE you have



Still a bit foggy? . . . Let's go deeper then . . .

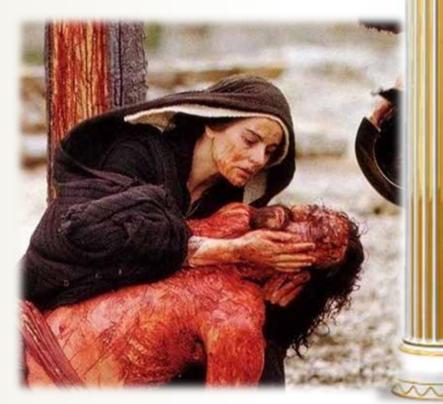
When you SUFFER for Christ's sake, and BECAUSE you CANNOT deny Christ ... your LOVE will NOT let go

Look hard at the LOVE you have

When you see that LOVE ... how GREAT that LOVE is ... when you see ... like Peter

Then ... you WILL Rejoice ... look at v. 13:

¹³ But rejoice as you share in the sufferings of the Messiah, so that you may also rejoice with great joy at the revelation of His glory.



Share ... then notice how Peter takes us further ...

¹³ But rejoice as you share in the sufferings of the Messiah, so that you may also rejoice with great joy at the revelation of His glory.
 ¹⁴ If you are ridiculed for the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

Why? ... the GREATER JOY at the REVELATION of HIS Glory! While here on earth, we may have trouble, but—one day— ONE BLESSED DAY ... we shall be FREE ...

We know these "words" ... but do we know the "experience"? Thank God for America ... I suspect a FEW know a LITTLE today. Yet, FEW there be that dealt with ridicule LIKE those in A.D. 60 !!!

Peter continues,

¹⁴ If you are ridiculed for the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

Beyond the HONOR to "rejoice" in sharing His sufferings ...

When we are ridiculed for the name of Christ, what happens?

From the REALM OF THE SPIRIT our God, OUR CREATOR, sends His Spirit and His Glory to rest upon us.

Astounding! This is a declaration of an event that Peter and Paul AND the Christians in Asia Minor have **experienced**.

But they may not have known it as such ... the Book of Acts may have been written by Dr. Luke, yet certainly not published yet!

Same for 1 & 2 Corinthians . . .

Paul says in 2 Corinthians 3:8-9 & 3:17-18

⁸ will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? ⁹ If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness!

THEN, Paul says in verses 17-18:

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

- **1 Peter 4:14** ¹⁴ If you are ridiculed for the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.
- **Several see a VERY CLEAR references to Isaiah 11:**
- ¹ There shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse...
- ²And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

³ And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes... ⁴ But with righteousness shall he judge the poor....

¹⁴ If you are ridiculed for the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.
REALLY ... already experienced for 30 years? HOW SO?
What's meant by "God's Spirit and Glory to RESTS" on us?
Peculiarly, the ONLY time this is GUARANTEED is when we are **RIDICULED**

Of course, we ALWAYS have the SPIRIT with us ... ALWAYS! Of course, we ALWAYS have GOD with us ... ALWAYS! Of course, GOD can and DOES work in *many ways!* ... What we have HERE is MORE than a promise.

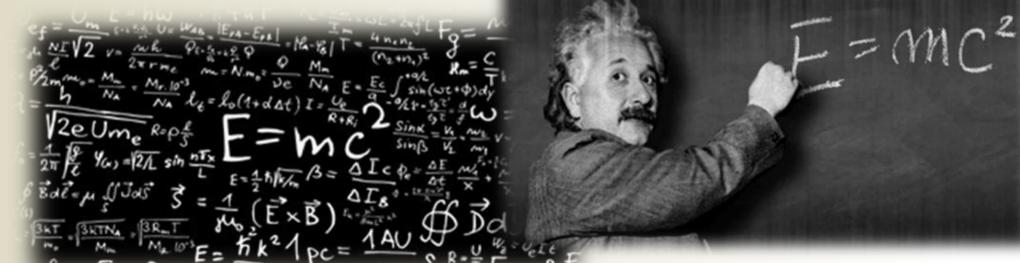
¹⁴ If you are ridiculed for the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

Much more than a mere promise, this is a DESCRIPTION of God's work in this world EACH and EVERY time one is

RIDICULED

Let me toss in a scientific algorithm ... or hypothesize an equation

An equation like Einstein ...



Perhaps, here, Peter means that the SPIRIT of GOD rests on us in a kind of Divine PROPORTION to the RIDICULE God's Spirit comes to SOME mighty men and women in a greater degree in the ... **FURNACES of Persecution!**

¹⁴ If you are ridiculed for the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. Equation or NOT, we can't linger on this too long ... toooo painful So, briefly ... in just a short time ... just a tad ... just an itsy bitsy bit Let's ask that one Supremely Important, even CRITICAL Question? A question that HUANTS all Christians who TRULY LOVE their Lord Haunts those who FOLLOW with ALL of their Hearts and Souls That question ... just a tad ... just a little ... begs of us an answer That ONE single question that, when brought to the table ... That single question that—when asked—HUANTS us all our days perhaps fitting that Halloween is just around the corner

¹⁴ If you are ridiculed for the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. Question HUANTS us ALL our days: to the degree we MIGHT turn I don't believe there is an ACTUAL algorithm or equation What I do KNOW and certainly BELIEVE ... Is according to Hebrews 11 and 12, a GREAT cloud of witnesses has gone before us ... before you and me In Acts 7:55, Stephen, as he was being STONED to DEATH, said, **But Stephen, being full of the Holy Spirit, looked up** steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God.

¹⁴ If you are ridiculed for the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

That haunting question is

HOW—*HOW* Can One **DIE** for Christ?

Remember—you MUST remember: Very few DIE for Christ without TORTURE first

If denying Christ would SAVE YOUR life If denying Christ would SAVE the life of your HUSBAND or WIFE If denying Christ would SAVE the life of your CHILD Yes, the MOST HAUNTING question in the Christian life. No more time here . . .

We have enough with Ridicule

¹⁵ None of you, however, should suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if anyone suffers as a "Christian," he should not be ashamed but should glorify God in having the name.

Why did Peter say that?

I suspect it was simply to contrast the LOWEST with the SUBLIME If you LOVE God ... you will LOVE others and ... you will Murder, Stealing, Evil Doing ... nah, *not even thought about* ... Yet ... MEDDLER? ...

- ✓ yes, if you LOVE people ... you won't meddle
- ✓ That is, you will RESPECT differences …

- ¹⁵ None of you, however, should suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if anyone suffers as a "Christian," he should not be ashamed but should glorify God in having the name.
- The term "Christian" only appears HERE and TWO other times
- Acts 11:26: So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called CHRISTIANS FIRST AT ANTIOCH.
- Acts 26:28: Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a CHRISTIAN?"
- It was descriptive ... what the PAGANS called 'dem 'dar
 - Followers of Christ ... often as RIDICULE

- ¹⁵ None of you, however, should suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if anyone suffers as a "Christian," he should not be ashamed but should glorify God in having the name.
- No ... you should NOT be ashamed of "Christian" YES—emphatic, YES—Glory to God that YOU have the NAME Here's another twisted example ... from my Facebook ramblings A YEAR ago, I posted a photo of my support of the HOMELESS over Refugees . . . On a political page ... I got attacked in several crude ways In 27 exchanges and repartees ... I think I won ...

Here is a NON-PARTISAN one ... one of the last repartees

Here's the repost last week, noting it has 1.2k "likes"

After some 27 repartees with 3 men



Steve

I end with this.

I have a greater chance being harmed by local home grown terrorist then by any Forgien agent.

That's just not liberal in me talking that is reality

Yes ... We can effort it. Amazing we can effort oil subsidies, bail outs

As long as there's one Homeless child in America



We have no room for Muslim refugees



Steve goes on and on . . .

armies of the world combined. Tax policies that push the burden to middle class and the poor. But it's impossible to raise money for anything else.

Also Michael I read your bio. What little I see here I can honestly SEE here say your no Christian. I meet few honest Christians (amazing how few they are) hearts of gold. Never it was can't do it was what can we do.

As long as there's one Homeless child in America



We have no room for Muslim refugees



and here

AND on and on . . .

You sir are no Christian. Sure you go church and other functions but you have way too much fear and selfishness. Brother you got some soul searching to do. I wish you luck.

1 hour ago 🔸 Like 🔸 🍻 1

Notice, Steve's tirade got a "like" / from one of the other attackers ...

As long as there's one Homeless child in America



We have no room for Muslim refugees



and here

Here's my response . . .



5Z

Michael G. Maness

At least I have a bio. Certifiably and certainly NOT your view of a Christian that will NOT defend their own--absolutely NOT. I fear traitors and terrorists and those that defend them ... and, apparently, am fighting one here, who now wants to highjack my faith against me to support terrorists and abandon my own homeless for... oh, but I said that enough. I don't like traitors

52 minutes ago • Like

As long as there's one Homeless child in America



We have no room for Muslim refugees



- ¹⁵ None of you, however, should suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if anyone suffers as a "Christian," he should not be ashamed but should glorify God in having the name.
 - No ... you should NOT be ashamed ...
 - YES—emphatic, YES—Glory to God that YOU have the NAME
- As a "Christian"—you are on the RIGHT side of
 - The Spiritual Realm
- **RIGHT side of**
- The Battle between Satan and God
- **RIGHT side of V** The Quest-Pilgrimage to Heaven
 - **RIGHT side of**
 V Even the RIGHT side of the cosmos!
 - **RIGHT side of** \checkmark Even the side of HIM whose "name" is above ALL

¹⁵ None of you, however, should suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if anyone suffers as a "Christian," he should not be ashamed but should glorify God in having the name.

you are a

Christian No HIGHER Calling

- ¹⁸ And if a righteous person is saved with difficulty, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"
- Verse 18—direct quote from LXX, the Septuagint of Prov. 11:31 Yep, like last week, but NOT as complicated—two views
 - 1. Saved Salvation was THROUGH the Cross of Christ favored by Holman Christian Standard Bible
- 2. Saved Recompensed or "saved" here LESS than wicked Either way is okay ...

no change or unique addition to any major or minor doctrine

¹⁷ For the time has come for judgment to begin with God's household, and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who disobey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And if a righteous person is saved with difficulty, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

See how the KJV, NIV and Douay-Rheims favor "2."

KJV 31, Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.

NIV 31, If the righteous receive their due on earth, how much more the ungodly and the sinner!

Douay-Rheims Bible 31, If the just man receive in the earth, how much more the wicked and the sinner.

- ¹⁹ So those who suffer according to God's will should, while doing what is good, entrust themselves to a faithful Creator.
 Clear ... ENTRUST is to make a deposit ... to GIVE for safekeeping
 Temple of Artemis, at Ephesus, the largest depository of Asia
 Remember Peter wrote from Rome to Asia Minor & Galatia
- Banking and regulation evolving in Rome
- Most "deposits" were kept in Temples



Temple of Artemis, at Ephesus, the largest depository of Asia 550 B.C. New Temple sponsored by Croesus - 377x151 feet Just 46 years AFTER Israel was taken into captivity to Babylon 356 B.C. destroyed ... circa 324 Alexander offered to rebuild They chose not to and built after Alexander's death in 323 B.C. larger, 450x225 feet ... lasted 600 years Acts 18, Paul preached in Ephesus, then to Jerusalem ... Acts 19:1, "Paul took the road through the interior and arrived back at Ephesus.... found some disciples....

Model of Temple of Artemis, Istanbul, Turkey, they tried to recreate likely appearance

Temple of Artemis, at Ephesus, the largest depository of Asia Mark Anthony is said to have stolen from it

The temple was depository for Aristotle, Caesar, and more What do YOU "deposit"? ... Your Treasure!

Peter said to "deposit" your TREASURE, i.e., YOUR TRUST!





Model of Temple of Artemis, Istanbul, Turkey, they tried to recreate likely appearance

¹⁹ So those who suffer according to God's will should, while doing what is good, entrust—DEPOSIT your TREASURED TRUST—to a faithful Creator.

Trust Your CREATOR

In the beginning ... from Alpha to Omega ... to the END ... Perhaps, one the BEST Psalms on TRUST is Psalm 37 ... Divinely inspired ... sublime as any ... And some say ... a few allude ... a couple imply ...

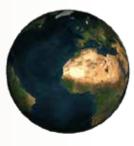
Peter was referring to Psalm 37 right here in verse 4:19



Psalm 37 . . . *clipped . . .*

- ¹ Fret not thyself because of evildoers....
- ³ Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.
- ⁴⁻⁵ Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass....
- ⁷ Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him....
- ⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.... and so on for 30 more verses





Pray ... Love ... Serve ...

Yet ... rejoice when you SHARE in the Sufferings of Christ

Ridicule ... may hurt for a season ...

The end is STILL near ... perhaps nearer



¹⁹ So those who suffer according to God's will should, while doing what is good, entrust—DEPOSIT your TREASURED TRUST— to a faithful Creator.

Trust Your Creator

Creation of Adam, part of fresco, Sistine Chapel ceiling by Michelangelo between 1508-12

62



FBC Woodville Sunday School Class Michael G. Maness see PreciousHeart.net/SS

Christian rejoice when You Share with Christ

Trusting Your Creator