

## **“IF ANY SUFFERS AS A CHRISTIAN”**

The theme of Peter’s first epistle is to endure suffering for being a Christian. We have a great hope that will help us endure, because we know that the rewards will be well worth the temporary suffering (**1:6-9**) and the holy conduct that God requires of us (**1:13-16**), including our love for one another (**1:22, 2:1-3**).

We must recognize that the world will speak evil of us, but we must live in such a way that they will be ashamed of their false accusations against us (**2:11-12**). Peter then gives several examples applying this principle: submission to the government (**2:13-17**), submission to masters (even if they are not nice—**2:18-25**), submission to husbands (and husbands to the needs of their wives—**3:1-7**), submission to one another (**Ephesians 5:21**—a special endurance of suffering from a special source—**3:8-12**).

The rest of the book is dedicated to glorifying God by suffering as a Christian. We won’t suffer if we do right, but if others defame us for doing so, we are still blessed as Christ shows us (**3:13-21**). Old friends make fun of us in a bad way when we stop doing the bad things we used to do with them (**4:1-6**); we need to replace such so-called “friends” with true friends (**4:7-11**). We should expect to suffer as a Christian (as Paul said in **2 Timothy 3:12**) rather than as evildoers (**4:12-19**).

“*Christian*” is the name by which we glorify God (**4:16**). We glorify God the Father by honoring His Son Jesus **Christ** (**Philippians 2:9-11**). Any denominational name added to “Christian” takes away from the glory of Christ and glorifies its denomination. Besides, such names are unscriptural and unauthorized. That would make them anti-scriptural (**Matt. 15:13**). Let us honor God by wearing only the name “Christian” and living in accordance with the name.