

## **1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11<sup>iii</sup>**

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief maker. Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And if it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?" Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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### **<sup>iii</sup> About the Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11**

This latter part of 1 Peter is directed to those undergoing persecution, which is seen as characteristic of the Christian life and a test of faith. It is a sharing in Christ's sufferings in a

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way that is more than imitation; it is a reason for joy.

In the last few verses of this book, Peter sums up his teaching with a list of basic principles for Christian living: humility before God, confidence in God's providence, perseverance, a spirit of community and hope. These qualities of life will enable the believer to move safely through the perils of this life and into the final rest in Christ.