7/19/15

***Recap of 7/5/15 (1 Peter 4:12-14):***

*1. Christians should not be surprised by opposition. The absence of persecution and satanic opposition would be strange. We must be mentally prepared to face opposition in love. (vs. 12)*

*2. “Persecution is not something that is alien to the Christian life. Throughout history the people of God have suffered at the hands of the unbelieving world. Christians are different from unbelievers (2 Cor. 6:14-18), and this different kind of life produces a different kind of lifestyle.” (Warren Wiersbe)*

*3. Believers are urged to expect suffering for Christ’s sake and to see present suffering in light of future glory.*

*4. Why are believers persecuted?*

*-people are suspicious of those who are different. Christians are “aliens and strangers” in this world and should be different from the world in vital ways.*

*-Christians should represent in their lives Biblical values and truths*

*-Christians act as a kind of conscience to society—and many in society do not want their consciences pricked by the truth*

*5. According to vv. 13-14, believers should accept suffering because:*

*-suffering brings us into deeper fellowship with Jesus (Phil. 1:29; 3:10; 2 Cor. 12:7-10)*

*-suffering is transformed into glory, we share in both Christ’s suffering and glory therefore we can rejoice (Rom. 8:17,18)*

*-suffering bring God’s blessing (Matthew 5:11,12)*

*-suffering brings a special grace of the Holy Spirit to the believer. God stands with His people (Stephen in Acts 6:15ff).*

**“Strange Bedfellows” (Part 2)**

**1 Peter 4:11-19**

**I. Expect Opposition vs. 12**

**II. Accept Suffering vv. 13-18**

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**III. Entrust Yourself to God vs. 19**

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