

# What good could come out of This?

1 Peter 4:12-19

## Our negative reactions to problems in life:

- Put them off - "I'll deal with it later" **Delayers**
- Avoid them - "I don't have a problem." **Deniers**
- Ignore - "I have a problem but it's no big deal." **Downsizers**
- Neglect - "Oh well", or "I don't care" **Disregarders**.

## Productive things to remember when encountering problems in life:

- Don't be surprised when problems come your way. (v. 12, Matt. 7:24-27, 5:43-48)
- Be glad for them. (v. 13a) James tells us to rejoice. **Why?**
- Our suffering makes us partners with Jesus. (v. 13b) **How?** (Rom. 5:1-5, James 1:2-4)
- Our suffering for Him now will result in our rejoicing with Him later. (v. 13c)
- Our suffering will result in God's blessing. (v. 14) **However:**
  - If God's blessing is to be experienced during our suffering, it must be the result of us doing good not evil. (vv. 15-16)
  - If we as God's people are suffering for doing evil, we are deservedly receiving God's righteous judgement. (vv. 17-18, Rom 13:1-5)
- Never quit doing good for the cause of Jesus Christ. (v. 19a, Gal. 6:9)
- Always keep trusting in God. (v. 19b, Prov. 3:5-6, Is. 26:3)
- Always remember that God will never leave you or forsake you. (v. 19c, Heb. 13:5)

## Points to Ponder:

- Troubles in life are equal opportunity annoyers, expect them!
- Troubles in life can become equal opportunity developers if we learn from them!
- Troubles in life can be equal opportunity deceivers, be wise and listen to Him!
- Troubles in life should be equal opportunity reminders, remember Him!