

The Believer's Present and Future Described by Two Words

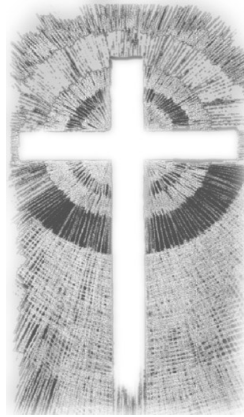
1 Peter 5:5-11

God is able to take a complex topic and summarize it in one word. For example, in Galatians 5:14 we learn that all the law is summarized in one word, the word "LOVE." If a man loves God with all his heart and loves his neighbor as himself, he has fulfilled the law. Similarly, God has a word which describes our entire Christian life from the day we were saved to the day we die. It is the word **SUFFERING**. The Christian life is not a bed of ease, and the Lord promised us that we would be treated as He was (John 15:18-21). But a brighter day awaits us, and our eternal future is also summarized by one word: **GLORY**.

Consider the following: "I reckon that the **sufferings** of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the **glory** which shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18). "But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's **sufferings**; that, when His **glory** shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.... But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal **glory** by Christ Jesus, after that ye have **suffered** a while, make you perfect..." (1 Pet. 4:13; 5:10). "For our light **affliction**, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of **glory**" (2 Cor. 4:17). The same was true of our Lord: "Ought not Christ to have **suffered** these things, and to enter into His **glory**?" (Luke 24:26). "...testified beforehand the **sufferings** of Christ, and the **glory** that should follow" (1 Pet. 1:11).

What was true of our Lord is true of us. The cross must come before the crown; the humiliation must come before the exaltation (Phil. 2:5-11). **Do we embrace God's view of our present and our future?**

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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