

## Living with Trust

*“Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.” 1 Peter 4:19.*

In his first epistle, Peter is addressing the persecution of the church and how Christians are to understand it and face it. Just a few verses earlier Peter boldly writes, *“For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?”* Peter understands persecution as a time of refinement designed by God. Even a time in which the hearts, intentions, and motives of Christians are judged by God and those who endure and are left after the persecution ends are those who are truly Christians.

In closing with the theme of suffering, Peter then gives two instructions which are just as important for us today as they were for these persecuted Christians. The first instruction he gives is *entrust your souls to a faithful Creator*. It's important to first understand the necessity of us entrusting our souls to something beyond ourselves. There's a good reason many of us hesitate to entrust our souls to ourselves: Because we don't have the power to save it. That kind of authority exists outside of our jurisdiction. It's then important to understand the necessity of entrusting our soul to something outside ourselves which is faithful. All too often we fall into the temptation of entrusting our souls to something outside ourselves which has proven time after time to be unreliable. Of course the last word *Creator* indicates the most reliable source for the salvation of our souls.

However, while it may seem like entrusting our souls to our Creator is the most difficult part, there's more to it. We're to entrust our souls to Him *while doing good*. This is a monumental task even for us, let alone for those enduring persecution. Those who are persecuted are often in survival mode, not in a mental place of *what can I do for my neighbor?* And yet doing good is something that is never to be neglected.

The hardest part is putting these two together. It's tempting to separate them. While we're doing good, we often entrust our souls to the good we're doing, not to our Creator. And when our trust to our Creator is at its strongest, we're often in positions of extreme hardship, which means we're not very motivated to do good. If this is instructed to Christians in suffering, then it is all the more a responsibility of ours. Let us never forget to put these together: To entrust our souls to God while doing good.

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