

**Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church**  
**Bible Sharing Program 2018-19**  
**Session #5: Sharing in Christ's Suffering; Final**  
**Exhortation**

*CSB – Ignatius Catholic Study Bible – Daniel*  
*CCSS – Cath Commentary on Sacred Scriptures*  
*NJBC – New Jerome Biblical Commentary*  
*SN = Special Notes / NAB = New American Bible*  
*SK = Chinese Bible / CCC = Catholic Catechism*

<p><b>A</b></p>	<p><b><u>Overview of Scripture</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The previous verse discusses the proximity of the end, therefore we must remain alert and pray, love one another, and glorify God in everything. The next verse encourages believers to rejoice as they share in Christ's sufferings. Then, Peter continues to teach the elders, young people, and conclude with final greetings and benediction to all.</li> <li>Do not be surprised as you are tested but "rejoice in so far as you share Christ's sufferings". You are "blessed because the spirit of glory and of God rests upon you". Do not suffer due to crimes committed but "suffers as a Christian" so as to glorify God. The time has come "for judgment to begin with the household of God". "If it begins with us, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?" Only those "who suffer according to God's will do right and entrust their souls" to God.</li> <li>Exhorting the elders to be responsible in tending the flock of God in their charge; do not focus on profit or dominate, but be "examples to the flock". Young people should "be subject to the elders", be humble with each other and trust in the Lord. Be "sober" and "watchful" as the "devil prowls around ... seeking some one to devour". After they have "suffered a little while", God will strengthen them. By Silvanus "I have written briefly to you", to exhort you and bring greetings from the church in Babylon.</li> </ul>	<p>1Pet 4:12 – 5:14</p> <p>4:12-19</p> <p>5:1-14</p>
<p><b>B</b></p>	<p><b><u>Sharing in the Sufferings of Christ</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suffering is a test during which we should rejoice, for through suffering we may "share [in] Christ's sufferings". This "sharing" does not mean imitation or following, it implies to "share in", "have communion in". Not only will we rejoice presently but also in the future: "you may also rejoice and be glad when is glory is revealed".</li> <li>Suffering in the name of Christ is a blessing; rejoice because "the spirit of glory and of God rests upon you", comforting you. If the spirit of God rests upon the Messiah (the servant of God), those who share in Christ's sufferings will also share in God's special presence.</li> <li>Let us be glad as we suffer for Christ's sake because God is purifying us through sufferings. The Prophets teach that "for judgment to begin with the household of God". "The fiery ordeal which comes upon you to prove you" (4:12) is, in fact, God's purifying judgment on His household. This allows us to better prepare ourselves for Christ. Reflecting on scriptures, one may ponder: "If it is difficult for the righteous to be saved, what will happen to the unrighteous and sinners?" Therefore, we should bear sufferings like Christ, who entrusts himself to God and bears his</li> </ul>	<p>4:12-19</p> <p>4:12-13 CCSS Rm 8:17, Philippians 3:10</p> <p>4:14-16, CCSS, Mt 5:11-12; Is 11:2, 53 Lk 12:11-12; Acts 7:55</p> <p>4:17-19, CCSS Amos 3:2; Malachi 3:1-6; Heb 12:5-13 Pr 11:31</p> <p>Lk 23:46</p>

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	sufferings according to God's will, "those who suffer according to God's will do right and entrust their souls to a faithful Creator".	
<b>C</b>	<p><b><u>Exhorting Elders and the Young to be Humble</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter humbly called himself "a fellow elder" so as to model for the elders who are called to serve humbly: "tend the flock of God that is your charge", "not for charge", "not as domineering over those in your charge", "but being examples to the flock". Hierarchically, Peter is an apostle as well as the leader; therefore logically he should be first.</li> <li>• Peter also bears "witness to Christ's suffering". His witnessing is equivalent to "shar[ing] Christ's sufferings" (4:13): oppression, imprisonment, and martyrdom.</li> <li>• He also "rejoice[s] and [will] be glad when his glory is revealed". As we suffer for Christ we will also share in His glory. See B1.</li> <li>• The young should be "subject to the elders".</li> </ul>	<p>5:1-5a</p> <p>5:1-4, CCSS, CSB SN1, SN2</p> <p>1Cor 12:23, SN3</p> <p>CCSS, CSB Acts 5:17-42, 12:2-5</p> <p>SN4</p>
<b>D</b>	<p><b><u>Exhorting All to be Humble</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for 'God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.'" - Believers should imitate Christ who take "the form of a slave ... humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death" (Ph 2:7-8).</li> <li>• The devil is our "adversary", or a defeated "accuser"; he "prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking some one to devour". "Resist him, firm in your faith", like Samson tearing the lion apart with bare-hands.</li> <li>• "After you have suffered a little while, the God of grace, ... will himself restore, establish, and strengthen you" – our brief life in this world is but a wandering in the wilderness; compared to the blessings of the Promised Land, our sufferings are nothing.</li> <li>• The letter ends with final greetings and benediction.</li> </ul>	<p>5:5b-11</p> <p>5:5b, Pr 3:34, Jn 3:30 1Cor 1:18, 22-23 SN5</p> <p>5:8-9, CCSS, CSB Rev 12:9-10 Judges 14:5-6</p> <p>5:10-14 CCSS</p>

**Special Notes:**

1. Elders in Scripture ("Elder" – Presbyteros [GK] – priest)
  - During the time of Moses – Ex 24:1, Numbers 11:16-25
  - Together with Prophet, Priest, and King, the elder is considered as leaders for the Israelites (1Kings 12:6, 1Ezra 6:7-8, Ezekiel 8:1)
  - During the time of Jesus, the Sanhedrin or Jewish ruling council in Jerusalem was also led by elders (Mt 16:21, 27:1, Lk 7:3-5)
  - During the time of the Apostles, Jewish temples outside of Judah were led by elders. It is likely that Paul established the Church based on this model as he chose his elders (Acts 14:23, 20:17, 1Titus 5:17,19). James, John, and Peter also called the leaders of believers "elders" – James 5:14, 2 Jn1:1, 3 Jn 1:1, 1Pet 5:1.

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(Ref.: CCSS p 114)

2. Shepherds in Scripture
  - Moses and David prefigure the image of the Good Shepherd – Ex 3:1, 1Sam 16:11-13
  - OT only knows shepherds who “feed” themselves but “do not feed the sheep”. God will seek and care for His own sheep – Ezekiel 34:1-31
  - The Lord is my Shepherd (Ps 23)
  - Jesus is the Good Shepherd who gives up his life for his sheep, “one flock, one shepherd” (Jn 10:7-16).
  - Popes and bishops are appointed to feed and tend Christ's one flock. (Jn 21:15-17)
3. Biblical data supporting the primacy of Peter, Prince of the Apostles (ref: CSB Acts 2 essay):

**GOSPEL**

- Ranked first by the evangelists (Mk 3:16, Lk 6:14, Mt 10:2)
- Often singled out from the group (Mk 1:36, 16:7, Lk 9:32)
- Treated by others as rep of the group (Mt 17:24-27)
- Often spoke with Jesus on behalf of the Twelve (Mk 8:29, Lk 12:41, Jn 6:66-69)
- One of 3 apostles given special attention by Jesus (Mk 5:37, Mk 9:2, Mk 14:33)
- Jesus prayed for Peter personally and asked him to steady the faith of his brother apostles (Lk 22:31-32)
- Given special respect by John in empty tomb account (Jn 20:3-8)
- Later that Easter, Jesus appeared to Peter, making him the first witness among the apostles (Lk 22:34, 1 Cor 15:5)
- Jesus made promises to Peter never made to other apostles: the foundation stone, the keeper of the keys of Christ's kingdom (Mt 16:18-19, the head shepherd in charge of Christ's sheep (Jn 21:15-17)

**EARLY CHURCH (per Acts)**

- Peter initiated and oversaw the replacement of Judas Iscariot (1:15-16)
  - Delivered inaugural sermon of Church history in Jerusalem (Act 2:14-36)
  - Performed first recorded healing in Church history (3:1-10)
  - When arrested together with John, Peter addressed the Sanhedrin (4:5-12)
  - Handled first recorded case of ecclesial discipline (5:1-11)
  - Brought the Spirit to endorse the new missionary development in Samaria (8:14-17)
  - Preached and administered Baptism in first Gentile conversions (10:1-48)
  - Presided over first recorded council, ended debate, made solemn proclamation of Christian doctrine (15:6-11)
4. “To live amidst these things, to meditate these things...does it not seem to you already here below a foretaste of the heavenly kingdom?” (St. Jerome, as quoted by Pius XII, *Divino Afflante Spiritu*, 59).
  5. “In Jesus, God reveals himself in his descending. We ascend to God by accompanying Jesus in his descending path” (BXVI, *Jesus of Nazareth – Baptism to Transfiguration*, p. 95).