

1 Peter 2:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.

Analysis

Peter explains why serving unjust masters pleases God. "For this is thankworthy" (touto gar charis)—literally "this is grace" or "this finds favor." The situation: "if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully" (ei dia syneidēsin theou hypopherei tis lypas, paschōn adikōs). "Conscience toward God" (syneidēsin theou) means awareness of God's presence and desire to please Him. "Endure" (hypopherei) means bear up under weight. "Grief" (lypas) indicates sorrow, pain. "Wrongfully" (adikōs) emphasizes injustice—undeserved suffering. God finds favor when believers endure unjust suffering while maintaining godly conduct because of God-consciousness, not self-interest.

Historical Context

Slaves often suffered unjustly—punished for circumstances beyond control, abused arbitrarily, denied basic human dignity. Peter doesn't justify this evil but provides theological framework for enduring it Christianly. Suffering unjustly while maintaining faith demonstrates supernatural grace, points to Christ's example, and brings divine commendation. This radically challenged both pagan resignation to fate and Jewish expectations of earthly justice. Early church's patient endurance under persecution mystified observers and attracted converts who saw inexplicable joy amid suffering.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does 'conscience toward God' (awareness of His presence) enable you to endure unfair treatment without bitterness?
2. Why does God find favor in those who suffer unjustly yet maintain godly character?

Interlinear Text

τοῦτο	γὰρ	χάρις	εἰ	διὰ	συνείδησιν	θεοῦ
this	For	is thankworthy	if	for	conscience	toward God
G5124	G1063	G5485	G1487	G1223	G4893	G2316
ὑποφέρει	τις	λύπας	πάσχων	ἀδίκως		
endure	a man	grief	suffering	wrongfully		
G5297	G5100	G3077	G3958	G95		

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 15:10 (References God): But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Luke 6:32 (Parallel theme): For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.

1 Peter 2:20 (References God): For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

Romans 13:5 (Parallel theme): Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

Psalms 119:86 (Parallel theme): All thy commandments are faithful: they persecute me wrongfully; help thou me.

John 15:21 (Parallel theme): But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

2 Corinthians 8:1 (References God): Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

2 Corinthians 1:12 (References God): For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.