I Peter 4:17-19

 *“The Reason For Trials”*

Introduction

1. Is there a reason or purpose in trials?

2. I Peter 4:17-19 gives us three reasons:

Is there a reason or purpose in trials?

**I. FOR PURIFICATION 4:17a**

*For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God (NASV)*

 ***A. It’s Time***

 **1.** *For the time has arrived (Amplified)*

**2.** The time is now. So often we put things off. This is one of them.

 ***B. It’s Testing***

**1.** *That judgment must begin…*

**2.** *Judgment* can be taken in at least two ways: *Judgment* can be for sin committed,

 but that cannot be here because Jesus paid it all. *Judgment* can be a time of

 testing, trials, *fiery trials (1:8)* This is to remove impurities.

***C. It’s Target***

 *At the house of God...*that’s us!

1. It could be the church meaning all believers or the local church.
2. *Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit?*
3. Why must this be the starting point?

\*If those who profess to be God’s people get right with Him, such honest dealings will change that person’s life. Perhaps the biggest failure in America is the failure of the church to be salt and light!

\*Revival is of God’s people. Revival is God’s finger pointing at me! *Repent* is to the saved also (Revelation and the charge to the 7 churches). Revival is the Holy Spirit working among Christians convicting them of sin and SELF…drawing them to a life of total surrender.

\*It is only as we (believers) have a real, living, vital experience with God will the unsaved come to know Him.

 **4. How does it work?**

 **\***Personal sin in believers must be recognized…acknowledged and repent (turn from

 the sin, turn around). Then make restitution (make things right) if possible.

  **\****If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and turn*

 *from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven… (II Chron 7:14)*

**\***Is there any wonder we make no concerted effort to win the lost! We are cold and

 indifferent to the claims of Christ in our own heart.

  **\***The fire is to remove the dross and draw us closer to the Savior.

Is there a reason or purpose in trials?

**II. FOR PROPAGATION 4:17b-18**

There is a lost world out there. They are the source of many trials. We ask: “What am I

 doing wrong?”

1. ***Their Condition***

There are only two classes of people in the world:

1. *If the righteous scarcely be saved…*The word *scarcely* is used in the News Testament: *With many difficulties (Mt. 7:14) They scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifices to them (Acts 14:18)* The difficulty of the sailors keeping their ship on course *(Acts 27:7, 8, 16)* The term portrays hard work! In this process of growth it will take a concerted effort to keep the ship on course!
2. *Ungodly and sinner*

\**Ungodly…*This is not necessarily a wicked person. It is one who does not relate God to life.

\**Sinner* is one who misses the mark. *There is none righteous no not one…For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*

**3.** Instead of being concerned with ourselves, we need a greater concern for the lost.

 What we go through is nothing compared to a Christless eternity. We don’t need

 revenge on those who hurt us…pray for them and endeavor to lead them to Christ.

 A life made clean should lead to a life of sharing God’s good news!

***B. Their Conclusion***

 *What shall be the end of them that obey not the Gospel? Where shall the ungodly and*

 *sinner appear?”*

1. If it was necessary for God to purify the lives of His children by drastic means (persecution and suffering)…If God’s people must be examined…What can one say to the unsaved as they stand before the wrath of God??!!
2. Where shall the ungodly and sinner appear?

 We know where they won’t appear:

 \*They will not appear in the clouds when the Lord returns for His own.

 \*They will not appear at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. For only those washed

 in the blood of the Lamb shall appear.

 \*They will not appear with the multitude of the city of God. For nothing defiled

 shall enter there!

 \*They will not be snatched away in the Rapture. For the ‘dead in Christ shall rise

 first.’

 We know where they will appear:

 \*What hope do they have if they reject God’s gracious invitation? There is no

 hope!

 \*(John 14:6) *I am the way, the truth and the life no man comes to the Father but*

 *by Me.* (Romans 2:16) *On that day God will judge all secrets.* (Revelation

 20:11-15) *The book was opened and whosoever name was not found written in the*

 *book of life was cast into the lake of fire which is the second death.*

Is there a reason or purpose in trials?

**III. FOR PARTICIPATION 4:19**

*Wherefore…*What else are we to do?

***A. Control of Him***

 *Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God…*

1. God permits suffering (1:6 *if necessary*) (2:21 *you have been called).*
2. God is in control of every situation. He is not the author of evil, but He does permit it!
3. We often lose sight of God’s purpose for our lives.
4. At times, suffering is God’s will for our lives!

***B. Commit to Him***

 *Commit the keeping of their souls*

1. *Commit…Father, into Thy hands I commit my spirit (Lk 23:46)* The verb is

 *constantly be submitting.* It is a single action, but a constant attitude. It is a

moment by moment decision.

1. *Commit* is a banking term. It means to deposit for safe keeping. When you

 deposit your life in God’s hand you always receive benefits or dividends. We are

 of value to God: He made us. He redeemed us. He lives in us, guards and

 protects us. **Let’s place all, everything into His hands!**

***C. Continue for Him”***

 *In well doing* by means of well doing.

1. As we return good for evil and commit all things unto Him means we are reacting in a Christlike manner.
2. We are turning ourselves over to Him. If we are maligned or misunderstood we

keep doing right!

 ***D. Confident of Him***

 *Commit...as unto a faithful Creator*

1. The Faithful Creator is described (Mt. 6:24-34) He provides and meets every need. He sustains moment by moment (Stars…Seasons…Days, etc.) all are reminders of His faithfulness.
2. The Creator is just as faithful to those who commit themselves to Him.
3. To the tired and weary: *“Lie still…none shall pluck you out of My hand.”*

***The One who made you can do whatever He wants...He knows what is best!***

***REST!***

***Do you know Him? If not, right now surrender to Him.***