

A *Central* SERIES
ASSEMBLY

LIVING LIKE
EXILES

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SUFFERING AS A CHRISTIAN

1 PETER 4:12-13

¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in **the sufferings of Christ**, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

“I was caught with others in my village. The Turks stood me up and asked, 'Muhammed or Christ?' I said, 'Christ, always Christ.' For seven days they asked me this same question and each day when I said 'Christ' a part of this cross was burned into my shoulder.

MARTI HEFLEY

“By Their Blood”

EXILES

On the seventh day they said, 'Tomorrow if you say "Muhammed" you live. If not, you die.' Then we heard that Americans were near and some of us escaped. That is how I learned the meaning of the cross."

MARTI HEFLEY

"By Their Blood"

EXILES



**SUFFERING FOR THE
RIGHT REASON**



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1 PETER 4:14

14 If you are insulted **because of the name of Christ,** you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

1 PETER 4:3-4

³ For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.

⁴ They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you.

“The listed nations contain 309 million Christians living in places with very high or extreme levels of persecution, up from 260 million in last year’s list. This year the top 10 worst persecutors are relatively unchanged.

“THE 50 COUNTRIES WHERE IT’S MOST DANGEROUS TO FOLLOW JESUS IN 2021”

Christianity Today

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After North Korea is Afghanistan, followed by Somalia, Libya, Pakistan, Eritrea, Yemen, Iran, Nigeria, and India. China joined the top 20 for the first time in a decade, due to “ongoing and increasing surveillance and censorship of Christians and other religious minorities.”

“THE 50 COUNTRIES WHERE IT’S MOST DANGEROUS TO FOLLOW JESUS IN 2021”

Christianity Today

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SUFFERING FOR THE WRONG REASON



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1 PETER 4:15

15 If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.

PROVERBS 19:3

**³ A person's own folly leads to their ruin,
yet their heart rages against the LORD.**

SUFFERING FOR A PROPHETIC REASON



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1 PETER 4:16-17

¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

1 PETER 4:18

**18 And, “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”**



WHERE TO FROM HERE?



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1 PETER 4:19

¹⁹ So then, those who suffer according to God's will should **commit** themselves to their faithful Creator and **continue** to do good.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

1. "Commit"

2. "Continue"

Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

HEBREWS 13:3

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