

*“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His Glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. **IF ye be reproached** for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of Glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part He is evil spoken of, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.” 1 Peter 4:12-16 KJV*



Rejection is difficult to bear, especially from loved ones. Jesus said, *“Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.”* Christ is not suggesting nor implying that we should hate our family, but that we ought trust Him and His Word more than family. If I must choose, I must choose Jesus! It is only when we esteem Christ and His desires by obeying God’s Word above all else that we find freedom from the suffering of rejection. Paul wrote, *“Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ. That I may know Him, and the Power of His Resurrection.”* We are not all cut from the same cloth as Paul, but he presents us an example of the devotion and love true believers ought have towards God! Paul was ultimately beheaded for his faith. If I am hurt by the rejection of men for the cause of Christ or if I hob-nob with the world, my faith is weak and powerless and I do not love God in spite of what I may profess!

If often mocked by evil men,  
Who love their wickedness and sin,  
For loving God and righteousness;  
I will secure true happiness! ~CGP

What care I for the opinions of blind fools who *“strain at a gnat and swallow a camel?”* I know and have learned that *“no good thing will [God] withhold from them that walk uprightly.”* If I trust and obey God, worry disappears and fear vanishes! I cannot trust what I do not know and I cannot know that with which I do not spend time. God’s Word is not fairy dust of which I can get one sprinkle and fly forever! I must read, study, and meditate in it *“day and night”* if I would be prosperous and successful. If I would see the path I walk, I must walk a lighted path. We may think we walk in faith all alone, but *“God is Light and if we walk in the Light, we have fellowship.”* Walking in the Light is obeying God’s Word! Obedient believers walk with God!

*“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? Nay, in all these things WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH HIM that loved us.” Romans 8:31, 37 KJV*