Suffering for Christ

Ready:
"But if anyone suffers as a Christian, he should not be ashamed, but should glorify God with that name."

-1 Peter 4:16

Set
Have you ever been overlooked by a coach or lost your job because of your faith? What about being rejected by your family? Sometimes being a Christian will get you labeled as "soft" by others. This is especially true in the pro sports world. An NBA coach once said that two things have ruined pro basketball and the players who play it: golf and religion. While others may not outwardly say it, many people feel the same way about Christians who strive to live their faith in the workplace. Whatever it is you do, if you are a Christian, be prepared to suffer in some way.

In today's Scripture reference, Peter talks to people who have been chosen by God to follow Him in obedience (1:1-2). He educates them about being familiar with suffering for Christ, and that they should expect it. In fact, Peter not only wants them to expect it, but also to rejoice when it comes. Rejoice that others recognized that their identity was based in Christ. Rejoice in the fact that God's power was revealed through their lives. Rejoice in the opportunity God gave them to strengthen their faith. Finally, he says those who suffer for bearing God's name would be blessed.

Go
1. Do you want to be blessed by the Creator of this universe?

2. When was the last time you suffered because you stood for Christ?

Workout
Romans 8:28
2 Timothy 4:18

I Peter 1:6-7

Overtime

"Father, thank You for the suffering You have allowed in my life. More than anything, I commit to standing for Your name, regardless of what earthly consequence may come from it."

Bible Reference:
1 Peter 4

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