

1 Peter 4:1-6

Experiencing Victory in a Hostile World

“...a primer for winning the war that really matters”

Navigating Unjust Suffering (4:1) (Part 1)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection

1. Peter exhorts his readers to arm themselves for the same purpose. What purpose?
2. How is Jesus' teaching in Matt. 10:38-39 similar to Peter's statement in 4:1?
3. Who is the one (“he”) who has suffered in 4:1 and what does it mean “ceased from sin”?
4. What has sin done to Christ and Christians?

Arming Yourself Against Unjust Suffering (4:1-6)

1 Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. 3 For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and [d]abominable idolatries. 4 In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you; 5 but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.

Today's Objectives – What does God want us to learn and do?

To joyfully endure suffering even as Christ did so that we might live like Christ separate from the World.

To recognize that the worst that can happen to a believer suffering unjustly is death, is actually the best that can happen because it means the end of sin.

I. Armed for Suffering (4:1-6)

A. Context

- Everything from the previous verses (3:18-22) is focused on _____ Peter's readers, believers, us, to _____.
- Suffering unjustly for being righteous is also on Peter's mind. (See 1 Pet. 1:6-9; 2:19-23; 4:14-19; 5:6-10)
- A key verb is found in verse 1: (Gr. *Hoplizo*) _____

- The picture is of preparation _____
- Peter provides believers with 4 perspectives motivating them to be strong when righteousness brings suffering and, even martyrdom. Believers strengthen their resolve in suffering when they are **armed with**:
 - An understanding of the _____ (4:1)
 - The _____ (4:2)
 - The _____ (4:3-5)
 - The _____ (4:6)
- Physical death is not the last word for believers and those who have died in Christ.

1 Peter 3:18	1 Peter 4:6
“For even Christ suffered once for all concerning sin, the just for the unjust, in order to reconcile us to God – He who was put to death in the flesh, but made alive by the Spirit.”	“For this purpose, the Gospel has been preached even to the dead, that though they are judged according to the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.”
Christ was crucified and died; but vindicated by being _____.	Some believers had already died; but their embracing the Gospel ensures that they will _____.

B. The Attitude of Christ (v. 1)

" Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

- The cross of Christ is the ultimate proof that Christ endured His greatest suffering, dying under divine judgment as:
 - The _____ (3:18)
 - Yet there, He also accomplished for believers _____ (3:18)
 - And victory over the _____ (3:22)
- In 4:1, Peter connects us to the previous section with a key summation:
 - Christ _____ (3:18; Isa. 53:10; Matt. 27:50; Acts 2:23) in fulfilling God’s redemption plan.
 - He (Christ) came “in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an _____ (Rom. 8:3; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:24; Gal. 3:13)
- “Therefore”, Peter commands his readers to “arm yourselves” with _____. Noun form *hoplon* used in several passages: John 18:3; 2 Cor. 6:7
- What are believers called to arm themselves with? _____

- Be willing to _____ knowing it produces the greatest _____. (Phil. 2:5; 1 Cor. 15:54-55; 2 Tim. 1:10; John 21:18-19)
- It is better to suffer for _____ than to suffer with the _____.
- Put on your _____ (Eph. 6:11; 2 Cor. 10:3-4)
- Peter was not expressing a new concept to his readers. (See Matt. 10:38-39). Paul was “armed”. (2 Cor. 4:8-12; 1 Cor. 15:31; 2 Tim. 4:6)
- Thousands of martyrs throughout church history “armed themselves”. (Heb. 11:13-16, 35-38)
- *To be armed for the purpose of suffering means we have clothed ourselves with the _____*

“...because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,”

- Believers can face suffering/death with the same attitude, because when it comes, they will experience _____.
- Who is the one (“he”) who has suffered?
 - Option 1 – The one who has suffered could be _____. (Rom. 6:6-10)
 - Option 2 – The one who suffered is the _____. (Rom. 6:7)
 - Option 3 – The one who suffered are _____.
- “ceased from sin” or “is done with sin” - power of sin is broken!
 - Affirming Truth 1 – The power of sin was broken by _____ in his death and resurrection. His cross-work is finished.
 - Affirming Truth 2 – Through our union with Christ “he who has died _____” Resolving that we are willing to suffer indicates that we have ceased to let sin dominate our lives.
 - Affirming Truth 3 – Believers can face _____ knowing that they will enter into eternity, free from _____ (1 Cor. 15:42-43; 2 Cor. 5:1)
 - Jesus willingly faced death “for the _____” (Heb. 12:2)
 - *To be armed for the purpose of suffering means we have _____*