

Experiencing Victory in a Hostile World

Our Present: Remember Our Testimony
How We Navigate Life
Really Matters
(2:11 – 4:6)

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ough suffering humble yourselves new
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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?

Victory in Christ's Suffering

1 Peter 3:18-22

--> 18 For Christ also died for sins once for all,
the just for the unjust,

(Victory of Bearing Sins)

so that He might bring us to God,
having been put to death in the flesh,
but made alive in the spirit;

19 in which also

He went and made proclamation
to the spirits now in prison,

(Victory Proclamation)

20 who once were disobedient,
when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah,
during the construction of the ark,
in which a few, that is, eight persons,
were brought safely through the water.

21 Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you

—not the removal of dirt from the flesh,

(Victory of Salvation)

but an appeal to God for a good conscience

—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

22 who is at the right hand of God,

having gone into heaven,

(Victory of Supremacy)

after angels and authorities and powers

-----> had been subjected to Him. [NASB]

Victory in Christ's Suffering

Our Model of Victory is Christ through His Suffering (3:18-22)

Christ is also our model of how to triumph through suffering. Suffering is to be a time of victory and triumph for us. That's what we see in the life of Christ.

The key thought is in verses 18 and 22: though Christ unjustly suffered at the hands of demons and men, He triumphed through the Resurrection. Like Him, we too will triumph over our unjust suffering.

Four areas in which Christ triumphed:

1. It was a triumphant SIN BEARING (18a)
2. A triumphant PROCLAMATION (18b-20)
3. A triumphant SALVATION (20b-21)
4. A triumphant SUPREMACY (22)



Navigating Unjust Suffering

Our 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.



...Future

...Present

...Past

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

Armed for Suffering

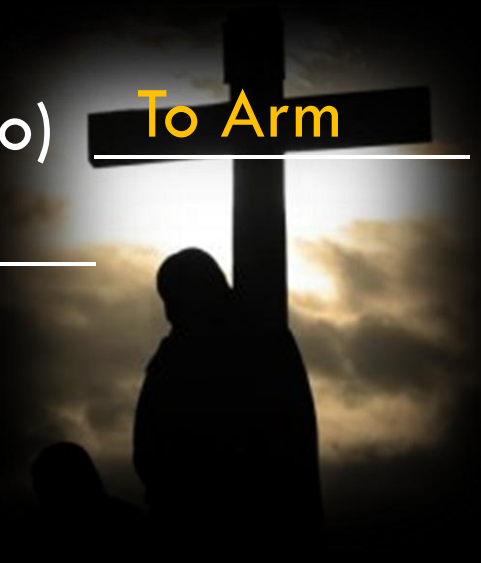
A. Context

Everything from the previous verses (3:18-22) is focused on preparing Peter's readers, believers, us, to suffer well.

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) To Arm

The picture is of preparation for battle



Armed for Suffering

A. Context

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 Attitude of Christ (4:1)
- The Will of God (4:2)
- The Transformation from the past (4:3-5)
- The Hope of Eternal Life (4:6)

Navigating Unjust Suffering

1 Peter 4:1-6

1 Peter 3:18

1 Therefore,

since Christ has suffered in the flesh,

arm yourselves also with the same purpose,

(The Attitude of Christ)

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.

(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 abominable idolatries.

4 In all this,

(Transformation from the Past)

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,

(Hope of Eternal Life)

that though they are judged in the flesh as men,

they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.

Armed for Suffering



A. Context

Physical death is not the last word for believers and those who have died in Christ.

1 Peter 3:18

“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.”

Christ was crucified and died;
but vindicated by being
raised by the Spirit.

1 Peter 4:6

“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.”

Some believers had already
died; but their embracing the
Gospel ensures that they will
live by the spirit.

Armed for Suffering

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 Just for the unjust (3:18)
- Yet there, He also accomplished for believers His greatest triumph over sin (3:18)
- And victory over the forces of evil (3:22)



Armed for Suffering

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,

In 4:1, Peter connects us to the previous section with a key summation:

- Christ suffered in the flesh — He died (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 offering for sin" (Rom. 8:3; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:24; Gal. 3:13)
- "Therefore", Peter commands his readers to "arm yourselves" with weapons/or armor. Noun form *hoplon* used in several passages: John 18:3; 2 Cor. 6:7

Armed for Suffering

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,

What are believers called to arm themselves with?
"the same purpose"

- Be willing to die knowing it produces the greatest victory.
(Phil. 2:5; 1 Cor. 15:54-55; 2 Tim. 1:10; John 21:18-19)
- It is better to suffer for Christ than to suffer with the World.
- Put on your armor (Eph. 6:11; 2 Cor. 10:3-4)

Armed for Suffering

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,

- 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)

How is Jesus' teaching in Matt. 10 similar to Peter's statement in 4:1?

- 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 attitude of Christ.

Armed for Suffering

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,

Believers can face suffering/death with the same attitude, because when it comes, they will experience victory over sin.

Who is the one ("he") who has suffered?

- Option 1 – The one who has suffered could be Christ Himself. (Rom. 6:6-10)
- Option 2 – The one who suffered is the believer. (Rom. 6:7)
- Option 3 – The one who suffered are dead believers.



Armed for Suffering

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,

“ceased from sin” or “is done with sin” - power of sin is broken!

- *Affirming Truth 1* – The power of sin was broken by Christ in his death and resurrection. His cross-work is finished.
- *Affirming Truth 2* – Through our union with Christ “he who has died freed from sin” Resolving that we are willing to suffer indicates that we have ceased to let sin dominate our lives.
- *Affirming Truth 3* – Believers can face suffering/death knowing that they will enter into eternity, free from sin's influences and effects (1 Cor. 15:42-43; 2 Cor. 5:1)

Armed for Suffering

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,

- Jesus willingly faced death --“for the joy set before Him endured the Cross” (Heb. 12:2)
- To be armed for the purpose of suffering means we have parted ways with our past life of sin.



What has sin done to Christ and Christians?

How has this discussion affected your perspective on suffering?

Our Identity with Christ

"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, 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.

- Suffering should not come upon us as some kind of unexpected surprise (see 4:12)
- If we are in Him, we should have the same mind as Christ, we should be willing to suffer in the flesh (for doing good), and we should be freed from sin to obey the will of God.
- "Positional truth", truth about what we are, in Christ, apart from our contribution, based solely on the work of the Savior.
- Personal and practical in that it speaks of our appropriation and application of all that Christ has accomplished for us.
- As Christians, we should embrace the mind of Christ and thus be willing to suffer in the flesh.