1 Peter 4:1-6

Experiencing Victory in a Hostile World
"…a primer for winning the war that really matters"
Navigating Unjust Suffering (4:2-6) (Part 2)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection

1. According to 1 Pet. 4:2 what is the twofold result of the Christian arming himself with Christ's attitude?

2. Evidently many of Peter's readers were converts from a pagan lifestyle. Was the 1st century much different than the 21st century? Describe how you have seen evidence of this type of living.

3. How does the reality of Christ's suffering shape the concrete living of the Christian life?

4. What changes will you attempt to implement in your life as a result of studying this passage?

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?*
Maintaining proper conduct in suffering requires that Christians maintain a Christlike attitude, living for the present in God's will, and knowing that they will live for eternity in His presence.

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

A. 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 _____ 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*** _____

B. The Will of God (v. 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."

- ***To be armed for the purpose of suffering means we are engaged in the*** _____

- *Note the connection*: Christ suffered…Arm yourselves with the same mind-set…The one who suffers in the flesh is broken from sin…So that he might live the rest of his life for the _____, not _____

- What does "rest of the time" mean? _____(1:17)

- As believers, we are about God's Will. What is His will? (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 6:5-6)
  - To_____
  - To _____
  - To _____

- Peter "draws the line" in verse 2: Whose army are you in? Who is your master? (Eph. 2:3; 4:17, 22-24; 5:7-8; 5:17; Tit 3:3; 1 Pet. 2:15)
  / One group lives for _____ Does their _____
  / One group lives for _____ Does _____

- Peter is telling believers to arm themselves with a _____ to do the will of God and _____ their former sins. (See Rom. 6:8-12)

C. The Transformation From the Past (v. 3-5)

" 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. 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."

- ***To be armed for the purpose of suffering means we know the*** _____

- Peter reminds believers of the vivid description of humanity's lost spiritual condition and the ultimate consequence of sin - _____ (1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21)

- The time for _____ is already past. (Rom. 7:1; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 1 Pet. 1:18)

- Six words (sins) describe the pursuit of the unregenerate:

- "sensuality" _____
- "lusts" _____
- "drunkenness" _____
- "carousing" _____
- "drinking parties" _____
- "abominable idolatries" _____

- ***To be armed for the purpose of suffering means we "walk"*** _____

- Scripture says much about our "walk". (1 John 1:6-7; 2:6; Eph. 4:17)

- When we are faithful in living lives in pursuit of the will of God, the response from the world is going to be two-fold:
  - _____ v. 4 (1 Thess. 1:9)
  - _____ v. 4 (1 Pet. 2:12; 3:16; Luke 6:22-23; Acts 9:4)

- Peter next reminds his readers, that those who slander and persecute believers will _____ (Matt. 18:23-34; 25:31-33, 41-46; 2 Thess. 1:6-9)

- "Living and the Dead" means _____

D. The Hope of Eternal Life (v. 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.

- ***To be armed for the purpose of suffering means we live in the*** _____

"for this purpose" - _____

The coming judgment not only will bring sinners into account (v.5), but will also reverse the judgments of men (v.6)

The Gospel was proclaimed to those Christians who are now dead.

- Peter reminds them that God has promised them that through suffering and death….
  - They will _____
  - Escape _____
  - Enter _____
  - In _____

- Just as Christ was crucified but was alive in spirit and raised from the dead, believers will suffer and die but their _____and enter into the promise of eternal life (1 Thess. 4:13-18;Heb. 12:23)