

1st Peter


Christian Life Assembly

Spring 2015

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1st Peter 4:1-9

- **So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have finished with sin. 2 You won't spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God. 3 You have had enough in the past of the evil things that godless people enjoy—their immorality and lust, their feasting and drunkenness and wild parties, and their terrible worship of idols. 4 Of course, your former friends are surprised when you no longer plunge into the flood of wild and destructive things they do. So they slander you.**
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1st Peter 4:1-9

- **5 But remember that they will have to face God, who stands ready to judge everyone, both the living and the dead. 6 That is why the Good News was preached to those who are now dead—so although they were destined to die like all people, they now live forever with God in the Spirit. 7 The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers. 8 Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay.**
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1st Peter 4:1-9

- We are 5% of the world's population living during 5% of the world's recorded history – what we have experienced is not the norm.
- Throughout this letter one theme, suffering, has been front and center.
- Matt 24:9 “Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. *You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers*”.

1st Peter 4:1-9



THE BLESSINGS OF
RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND
THE POSITIVES OF
PERSECUTION

1st Peter 4:1-9

- Phil 1:29 For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ *but also the privilege of suffering for him.*
- I am not seeking to be a messenger of gloom and doom, but the scriptures do paint a picture that we may not want to hear, but must.
- So why do you think it is called a privilege to suffer for Jesus?

1st Peter 4:1-9

- **Verse #1 For if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have finished with sin. 2 You won't spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires.**
- **Does this mean that if we suffer for Jesus, that we will no longer sin?**
- **I think not – rather I think it means that when we are serious enough about Him, to suffer for Him, we have gone beyond the life that still pursues sin.**

1st Peter 4:1-9

- **² You won't spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God.**
- **This (a deep desire to forsake sin and serve God) is evidently the result of suffering for Christ.**
- **So I wonder how that works?**

1st Peter 4:1-9

- How peculiar is it that the desire to serve Him results from His allowing us to suffer?
- Under normal circumstances one would think the opposite would be true – that one with power to shield us chose not to, so why would I serve Him?
- But with God, up is sometimes down, and in is sometimes out – what might normally drive us away, draws us closer.

1st Peter 4:1-9

- I suspect that suffering serves to reveal the effects of sin so clearly that we then yearn for things to be made right.
- When life is boiled down to simply right and wrong, life and death, we are changed in ways that are hard to describe.
- *We really do not know how that change in desire occurs, but Peter is very clear that it does.*

1st Peter 4:1-9

- **3 You have had enough in the past of the evil things that godless people enjoy—their immorality and lust, their feasting and drunkenness and wild parties, and their terrible worship of idols.**
- **No matter how much we've chased the flesh in the past, whether we think it a lot or a little, it is enough.**
- **And after experiencing the suffering they have, his readers can testify to the truth of Peter's words – they've had enough.**

1st Peter 4:1-9

- **Peter mentions their immorality and lust, and their feasting and drunkenness and wild parties, and their terrible worship of idols.**
- **Just in case you think that we are the first generation to go so deep into debauchery, think again.**
- **Immorality, lust, drunkenness, and wild parties did not begin in the sixties – the heart of man has been dark since the fall always making use of every avenue to sin.**

1st Peter 4:1-9

- **Gen 6:5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 The Lord said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them.” 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.**

1st Peter 4:1-9

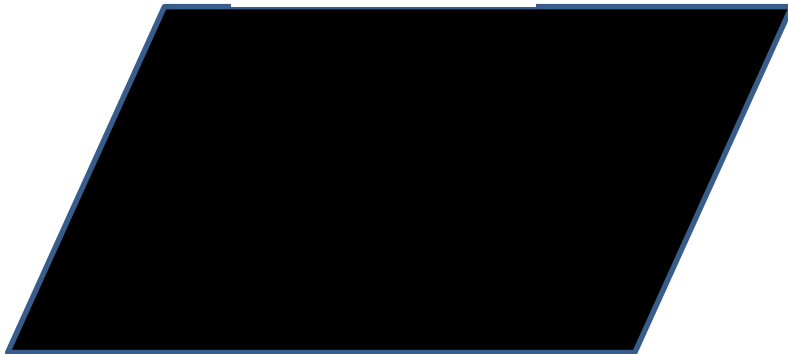
- **4 Of course, your former friends are surprised when you no longer plunge into the flood of wild and destructive things they do. So they slander you.**
- **When one is converted, when we have turned from our sin, those whose company we kept in the dark places are now shocked.**
- **It is okay to be ‘religious’ – it is not okay to turn from sin because that brings conviction to those still in the trap.**

1st Peter 4:1-9

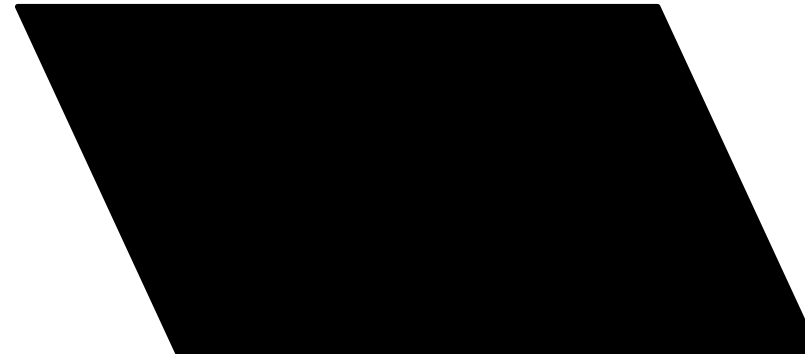
- **So what do the old friends do? They resort to what everyone else does when they know their arguments are baseless – they call names and make accusations.**
- **That’s why Peter says next, “5 But remember that they will have to face God, who stands ready to judge everyone, both the living and the dead.”.**
- **Their reaction to us is anger, but our reaction to them is to be pity – they are doomed without Christ.**

1st Peter 4:1-9

- Peter is specific – God stands ready to judge all men of all time, those alive now and those who have already died and are waiting in the lower region, Hades.



Hades



Paradise

1st Peter 4:1-9

- **6 That is why the Good News was preached to those who are now dead—so although they were destined to die like all people, they now live forever with God in the Spirit.**
- **Heb 9:27 And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment.**
- **There are no second chances, so Peter's reference to preaching to the dead must mean that the gospel, in whatever form was available, was preached to all while they were alive.**

1st Peter 4:1-9

- **7 “The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers. 8 Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay.”**
- **2nd Peter 3:3 Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. 4 They will say, “What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created.”**

1st Peter 4:1-9

- **2nd Tim 3:1 You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. 2 For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. 3 They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. 4 They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. 5 They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!**

1st Peter 4:1-9

- **When Peter declares the Lord is coming soon and now 2,000 years have passed – was he wrong?**
- **We could try to let him off the hook by saying that in terms of eternity, 2,000 years is really not much, but this is the Word of God and we don't need to make excuses.**
- **When asked when He would restore the kingdom, Peter heard Jesus say, "It is not for you to know the times or epochs which the Father has fixed by his own authority".**

1st Peter 4:1-9

- The lesson for us is not that Peter's words are hard to understand – the lesson for us is much simpler.
- Peter's words should serve to remind us that Jesus could return at any time – that doctrine is called, 'the imminent return of Jesus' – meaning that nothing else has to happen before His return.
- Luke 19:13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, *Occupy till I come.*

1st Peter 4:1-9

- **NASB - Luke 19:13** And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas and said to them, '*Do business with this until I come back*'.
- **1st Peter 4:10** As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **11** Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.



Questions

