

Chapter 4

Verses 1 – 6

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

1. Peter reminds these new Christ followers that they are to live out the same purpose that Jesus did, i.e. willing to suffer for His sake.
2. He tells them anyone who is suffering for Christ's sake has ceased from sinning. Their sole purpose now is to live in the will of God and not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
3. Peter reminds them of their past history of sinful living. We all can relate!
4. People who once knew them are surprised at the change in their life. Isn't that how it's supposed to be when you come to Christ?
5. Sad but those individuals who don't know that kind of change that comes from meeting the Lord will one day face the eternal consequences.
6. He explains that the Gospel was preached for two purposes: one, for the spiritually dead and one for those who are alive spiritually. One lives to themselves. The other lives unto the Lord.

Verses 7 – 11

⁷ *The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.* ⁸ *Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.* ⁹ *Be hospitable to one another without complaint.* ¹⁰ *As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the multifaceted grace of God.* ¹¹ *Whoever speaks is to do so as one who is speaking actual words 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!*

7. Peter makes an interesting statement here saying that the “end is near!” Time is short no matter where you are in history. It’s eternity that counts and we should live as if Christ could come at any moment whether it’s today or a thousand years from now. That’s why he tells them to have sound judgement in how they live and pray with soberness (clarity)
8. Above all they’re to love one another so much that if one offends you, you don’t even let it bother you.
9. He encourages them to live hospitably (kindly) with each other.
10. Peter tells them to use their spiritual gift that God has given them to serve one another with grace.
11. He then tells them:
 - a. that their language should be that same way God would talk
 - b. to serve one another through the strength that God gives us
 - c. Why? So, God the Father and God the Son gets all the glory in how we’re living!

Verses 12 – 16

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though something strange were happening to you; ¹³ but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that at the revelation of His glory you may also rejoice and be overjoyed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory, and of God, rests upon you. ¹⁵ Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; ¹⁶ but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed but is to glorify God in this name.

12. Peter shares with them that because they are following Christ they can expect persecution and not to think it strange or odd. It should be normal that a Believer is enduring some kind of push-back from the world.
13. He encourages them to rejoice in that fact because they are sharing in the sufferings that Christ suffered. Pretty good company?! Also, know that when His glory will ultimately be revealed they’ll be overwhelmed with joy.
14. Sounds strange but he tells them it’s really a blessing to be insulted for living for Jesus. In fact, the Holy Spirit rests upon them when living that way.
15. He exhorts them to make sure they don’t live like the world. Interesting, he puts murder and robbery together with a meddler.
16. Peter repeats this Godly principle again by telling them not to be ashamed when they suffer but instead glorify God in it.

Verses 17 – 19

17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner? 19 Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God are to entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

17. He tells them God's judgment will first start with the people of God.

Secondly, judgment of ungodly people will take place. It will be a sad, sad day.

18. In fact, he says that it's difficult enough for those who come to Christ but those who reject Him, judgment will be horrendous.

19. His encouraging words are for them to realize that all their suffering will pay off in the end because God is faithful. Hang in there!!!