

1 Peter 4:1-19 **Have the Mind of Christ in Suffering – Commit yourself to God**

Follow example of Christ

¹ Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ² that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

Time to Change

³ For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles — when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. ⁴ In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.

Judgment is near

⁵ They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

⁶ For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

Watching For Christ

⁷ But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

⁸ And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

⁹ Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.

Exercise of Gifts in Ministry

¹⁰ As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Suffering According to the Will of God

¹² Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

¹⁴ If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.

¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

¹⁷ For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ Now

"If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

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Facts Revealed:

Follow example of Christ [1 Peter 4:1-2]

- ✠ We are called to face suffering and death with the mind of Christ Who died for the sake of the world including those who killed Him.
- ✧ The prayer of Jesus at the time of His Death was: "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." [Luke 23:34]
- ✧ Stephen died with the same mind set: "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." [Acts 7:60]
- ✧ Those who hold this mind set, have chosen to live apart from the lusts of the flesh, being yielded to the Will of God.

Time to Change [1 Peter 4:3-4]

- ✠ We have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles — when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.
- ✧ Those you associated with when you were yielded to the lusts of the flesh, think it strange that you have changed and no longer run with them in the same dissipation.
- ✧ For that reason they ridicule you for having changed.

Judgment is near [1 Peter 4:5-6]

- ✠ Those who ridicule you for turning from evil to do the Will of God, will be called to give account for their attitude before the Lord Who is ready to judge the living and the dead.
- ✧ Because of the pending Judgment, the Gospel was preached to those who are dead, that they might be condemned in their conscience and repent to live according to God in the spirit.
- ✧ Paul worded it thus: "Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord." [Romans 6:11, Ephesians 2:1-7]
- ✧ And again: "And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses." [Colossians 2:13]
- ✧ As Scripture says, "It is appointed for man to die once and afterward the Judgment." [Hebrews 9:27]

Watching For Christ [1 Peter 4:7-9]

- ✠ But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.
- ✧ Peter ties the time of the end with the call of Jesus to be watching and prayers. [Matthew 24:42, 25:13, Mark 13:33-37, Luke 12:37-38, 21:36]
- ✧ Paul worded it thus: "Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober." [1 Thessalonians 5:6]
- ✧ The most important aspect of watching is in fervent love for one another. [1 Peter 1:22, 4:8, Romans 5:8]
- ✧ Love covers a multitude of sins. [Proverbs 10:12]
- ✧ We are called to be joyfully hospitable to one another without grumbling. [1 Peter 4:9, 1 Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:8]

Exercise of Gifts in Ministry [1 Peter 4:10-11]

- ✠ As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. [1 Peter 4:10, Acts 2:38-39, Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 7:7, 12:1-11, 14:12, Ephesians 4:7-8, Hebrews 2:4]
- ✧ Exercise gifts of speaking as the oracles of God. [1 Peter 4:11]
- ✧ Do the work of your ministry with the ability God supplies. [1 Peter 4:11]
- ✧ The goal in exercise of Gifts is that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.
- ✧ To God belong all the glory, and dominion forever and ever. Amen. [1 Peter 4:11, 5:11, Daniel 7:14, Jude 1:25, Revelation 1:6]

Suffering According to the Will of God [1 Peter 4:12-19]

- ✚ Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. [1 Peter 4:12-13]
- ✦ There are times when it is God's will for His people to suffer for doing good as a testimony to the evil world around us. [Matthew 10:16-42, 13:20-21, 24:9-13, Luke 21:12-13, John 15:20, 16:1-4, Revelation 12:17, 13:7, 14:12-13]
- ✦ Fiery trials must come to test us. [Matthew 18:7]
- ✦ When they do come, we must not imagine that some strange thing is happening, Jesus has told us ahead of time to prepare us to accept the trials in the right spirit. [1 Peter 4:12]
- ✦ We are reminded that we will share in Christ's suffering. [1 Peter 4:12-13, Romans 8:16-17, 2 Corinthians 1:5, Philippians 1:29, Colossians 1:24, 2 Timothy 3:12, 1 Peter 2:20-21]
- ✦ Our reward will be received when Jesus is revealed in all His glory. [Isaiah 40:10, 62:11, Matthew 16:27, 25:31-46, 1 Thessalonians 2:19, 1 John 2:28, Revelation 22:12]
- ✦ At that time we will be glad with exceeding joy. [1 Peter 4:13]
- ✦ In the mean time we are able to rejoice to the extent that we partake of Christ's suffering.
- ✚ You are blessed when you are reproached for the name of Christ. [1 Peter 4:14]
- ✦ It is evidence that the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.
- ✦ Those who reproach you for the name of Christ are blaspheming God.
- ✦ Christ is glorified by you when you are reproached for His name and take it patiently.
- ✚ Peter's conclusion regarding suffering as a Christian:
 - ✦ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. [1 Peter 4:15]
 - ✦ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. [1 Peter 4:15]
- ✚ Judgment begins with the people of God first. [1 Peter 4:17-18, Ezekiel 9:3-6]
- ✦ If it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?
- ✦ If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?
- ✦ These are sobering questions to consider.
- ✦ The Day of Judgment will be the final act of purging as Jesus cleans away all that offend God to set up his righteous Kingdom of universal peace and abundance. [2 Corinthians 5:10, Romans 14:10-12, Matthew 16:27, Mark 8:38, Luke 9:26, Revelation 11:16-18, 22:12, Daniel 7:26, Malachi 3:1-5, 18, 4:1, Isaiah 29:20-21, Ezekiel 20:30-38]
- ✦ Jesus is the one who makes the distinction as he separates the Saints from the wicked. The Saints will enter the Kingdom, while the wicked will be cast into the fire. [Matthew 25:31-46]
- ✦ Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator. [1 Peter 4:19]