

Well-Armed For Suffering
1 Peter 4:1-6
Finding Grace In Suffering: Series On 1 Peter
October 23, 2016

INTRODUCTION 1 Peter 3:14-18

Peter tells us that Jesus' willingness to suffer and entrust himself to God sets us an example. We need to apply it to ourselves. Christ who lived a perfect life and suffered and died for us, what makes us think that we're better than Jesus that we don't need to suffer.

Sometimes it is God's will that we suffer for doing what is right. This is not an easy thing to hear. We need help with this. We need understanding and we need encouragement and hope, if God is going to will that we suffer for doing what is right.

Same Thoughts and Purposes Arm Us

The purpose Peter has in mind is the purpose to suffer if God should will it (3:17) for righteousness' sake. If you choose that purpose, you are armed.

So the first piece of exhortation is...

CHRIST TOO SUFFERED (v. 1)

Jesus, the creator of the universe, the sustainer of all things, the Savior of the world, the perfectly Innocent One, the Son of God, chose suffering as his vocation and called us to take up our cross and follow him, and so find real and everlasting life. Our purpose is to suffer with him.

So the first piece of exhortation is knowing that Christ too suffered. The second exhortation is...

YOU HAVE CEASED FROM SIN (v. 1b)

Peter tells us that suffering for Christ's sake, suffering for well-doing, is an indication of righteousness, of freedom from sin, through the grace of God. So for the sake of righteousness and freedom from sin, arm yourselves with this purpose.

Transition

Within the context, Peter adds three practical motivations to enable us to response to the exhortations. The first concerns the past, the second, the present, and the third, the future.

PAST SINNING IS ENOUGH (v. 3)

Arm yourself with this thought: any amount of past sinning is enough. It is better to embrace that like Jesus did, if it is God's will, than to choose sin. Make the break; choose the will of God. I'm not saying that you'll never sin again. But what I am saying is that if you have a choice to follow God regardless how difficult that may be and a choice to sin. Don't sin. You had enough.

PRESENT STRANGERS (v. 4)

Before we were identified with Christ at salvation, we used to live in the same way unbelievers still live. Our former lifestyle, like theirs, was characterized by fleshly indulgence. But when we were turned to faith in Christ, all that changed. And now, our new lifestyle not only puzzles unbelievers, it threatens them. So they reviled us for doing good.

1 Peter 2:11-12; 1 Corinthians 15:33

FUTURE OUTCOME (vv. 5-6)

God Will Settle All Accounts (v. 5)

1 Peter 2:23; Hebrews 9:27-28; Romans 3:19; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10

God will judge justly the living and the dead. Arm yourselves with this assurance: it is better to suffer for doing right and to leave judgment to God.

We Will Triumph over Death

The point of this verse is to encourage us that even though there is a judgment coming beyond the grave, and even though all of us die, those who hear and believe the gospel will *"live in the spirit according to the will of God."*

Application – Living It Out

Are you ready for the unexpected? Are you arming yourself with the same mind-set like that of Jesus? Suffering is never easy. It's painful. Suffering is a part of our fallen sinful nature. But the good news is that Jesus triumph over sin, death, and Satan. May we suffer well as our Lord Jesus did. May we see victory in our sufferings that our Lord Jesus provided.