

1521 – German Monk – [Martin Luther](#) – Holy Roman Empire – Diet of Worms – Recant Writings

"My conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything."

Edict of Worms – Imperial Decree – Obstinate Heretic – Political Outlaw – Killed w/o Penalty

- He was willing stand alone because he had first learned to think differently...biblically
 - Convictions reshaped his mind, and his transformed mind produced a transformed life
- History demonstrates a simple truth: people live according to what they truly believe
- Before anyone stands differently, they must think differently**
- World tells us happiness found in self-expression, self-indulgence, feels right in moment
 - Those who *refuse* follow crowd are often viewed as strange, intolerant, or out of touch
- Text...we are called abandon our former, worldly way of thinking, and pick up mind of Christ

[What mindset am I carrying into my daily battle against the world?](#)

There is a war for your mind...the world knows if it can get you to think...you'll act like

- The **Holy Spirit** and the **Word** gives you the tools and weapons to have mind of Christ
- 4 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ²so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. ³For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. ⁴With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; ⁵but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.

You and I have been changed by the power of Christ (Gentile)...what we used to love...hate

1996 – Hardest Partier | Most Rebellious | Most Outspoken | Most Likely to start religion

- 2005 – Became Christian – 2006 Ten Year Class Reunion...People shocked | [Your story](#)
- When Christ changes your heart, He changes your **desires**, your **decisions**, and your **directions**
- *Desires* = Replacing a love for sin with a growing desire to know, obey, and glorify God
 - *Decisions* = Reshaping your mind to follow God's will instead of your own
 - *Directions* = from self-centered paths to God-centered purpose

Big Idea: The mind of Christ produces holy living that withstands worldly criticism

Three ways you can stand firm, against the world, in a way that glorifies God

1. **Arm Yourself with Christ's Mindset (v. 1-2)**

4 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ²so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

Live world obsessed with avoiding discomfort – App | Service | Trend = Keep Comfortable

- Many of us unconsciously bring exact same "comfort-first" mindset into spiritual lives
 - We want victory over temptation, but only if it comes easily
 - We want to grow holiness...only if doesn't cost us...[Obedience to Christ is Expensive](#)
- a. **The Pattern of Christ's Suffering** - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh | [Jesus did first](#)
- Jesus did not avoid pain, rejection, or obedience to the Father's will

Point is not simply that Christ suffered...His suffering becomes the pattern for the believer

[The Christian life is shaped by the cross before it is shaped by comfort](#)

- b. **Call to Arm the Mind** - arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, | Military Metaphor
- "arm yourselves" refers to a soldier putting on heavy armor or gripping a weapon, preparing [Preparing for battle...Braveheart...holds the sword getting ready to strike](#) | [Notice weapon](#)
- He doesn't tell us arm ourselves with political power, sharper arguments, or physical force
- Our primary weapon in the war against sin is an attitude—a mindset – Way of thinking**

You will lose the battle against sin in your mind before you lose the battle in your body

[What was Jesus' mindset?](#) A voluntary, premeditated resolve to obey God, no matter what

- Arm yourself means you decide *before* the temptation strikes, and *before* the crisis hits
 - Obeying God is worth more than your temporary comfort | [Surgery and obedience](#)
- c. **New Direction for Life** - for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,
- Ceasing from Sin – Not being sinless...but Christ has broken the power of sin over you
- Christ has broken sin's grip, so you are free to live for God | Sin's Grip**
- ²so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

- Peter is talking about the remaining days of earthly life. There is an urgency here.
- [Life is not endless opportunity for self-indulgence—limited stewardship](#) | [Running out time](#)
- [Airport late – TSA – Stops bathroom – Gets coffee – Gate door is closing...small decisions](#)
- [You're running out of time – What will you do with your time – Small decisions...big impact](#)
- [Takeaway – Who will rule over the rest of your time? Human passions or the will of God?](#)

2. **Abandon Your Former Way of Life (vv. 3-5)**

³For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. ⁴With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; ⁵but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. | [Paints a picture...State College](#)

- Their priorities change, their desires change, and often their relationships change
- [World does not object to a Christian who claims Christ; challenged by lives differently](#)
- Many believers came out of pagan lifestyles – Drunken Fests – Sexual Immorality – Idol
 - Two Dangers = Fall back into old habits | Feel the sting of isolation and hatred
- a. **Remember Your Previous Life** - For the time that is past suffices for doing what Gentiles want to do,
- Peter is saying, 'Enough' – You spent plenty of years in sin | [Prison – Walking back in](#)
- [Believers does not look back with longing...gratitude for God's rescue](#) | **AVOID**

- ⇒ **Sensuality** = Pursues sexual pleasure without regard God's standards or consequences
- It refers not only to sinful actions but a heart that no longer blushes at sin
- ⇒ **Passions** = Living to question, "What do I want?" rather than, "What does God desire?"
- It includes sexual desires, greed, pride, envy, or any craving that controls the heart
- ⇒ **Drunkenness** = Drinking to reach a state where judgment and self-control are impaired
- Scripture does not condemn every use alcohol...consistently condemns intoxication
- ⇒ **Orgies** = Party where the goal is indulgence and the abandonment of moral boundaries
- 'Orgy' = Orgia = *Secret Religious Rites* | Music – Dancing – Wine – Sex | Worshipping
- ⇒ **Drinking Parties** = Social environments where drunkenness is encouraged / celebrated
- Gatherings centered around excessive alcohol consumption | [College / Club Scene](#)
- ⇒ **Lawless Idolatry** = Living as pleasure, possessions, personal freedom is highest authority
- Worshipping false gods or giving ultimate devotion to anything other than one true God

[These are and were cultural norms...when you stop doing them the world won't respect you](#)

- b. **Expect the World's Rejection** - With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you
- World is comfortable with Christianity blends in...confused by Christianity stands apart
 - Unbelieving friends of Peter's readers shocked by their change | [Surprised = Foreign](#)
- [When believers refuse to participate in sinful practices, their refusal becomes an unspoken testimony against those practices – Bachelor Party - What?!?! Are you judging me?](#)
- Biblical perspective, world's rejection of believers isn't just a possibility—absolute guarantee
- Clash of Identities = One Identity rooted in Kingdom of Christ...other Kingdom Darkness
- [You have a responsibility to be rejected by the world](#) | [BBQ Wearing Tuxedo](#)

- c. **Rest in God's Authority** - ⁵but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. – You don't have to worry about the world's judgment...God is judging the world
- Peter gives suffering believers a powerful comfort: **God sees everything**
- Every insult, every accusation, and every act of faithfulness is known to Him
- Christians don't need revenge or spend lives defending themselves before every critic

There is a coming day when every person will stand before righteous Judge, Jesus Christ

For believers, this truth brings comfort. For unbelievers, it is a warning.

[The same Christ who offers forgiveness today will one day judge all humanity | Courtroom](#)

Takeaway: Who are you living for? The applause of heaven, or the approval of the crowd

3. **Anticipate God's Final Verdict (vv. 6)**

⁶For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.

- Every person must face a reality we often try to avoid: death is inevitable
- Wealth cannot buy freedom from it. Medicine can delay it, cannot defeat it – **Funeral**

Because of Jesus Christ, death is not the end of the story

World sees believer die and says, "Their life is over." God says, "Their true life has begun."

The gospel gives believers a life that death cannot destroy

- a. **Gospel Must Be Received Before Death** - For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead – **Weird way of saying something...2nd chance / Cemetery & Preach**
- "those who are dead" refers to people who had heard and believed but had since died

This is an important truth: there is no second chance after death | [Student fails exam](#)

- b. **Body May Die, but the Soul Lives** - that though judged in the flesh the way people are
- All people experience physical death because we live in a fallen world
- Even faithful Christians suffer sickness and eventually die...but the soul will last forever

Ecc. 3:11 'He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart'

Close your eyes and imagine not existing...impossible right...because you will live forever

- Peter reminds us that physical death is not a sign that God has abandoned His people
- Jesus Himself suffered in the flesh, died, and rose again - Suffering now, glory later
- c. **Spirit Lives in the Presence of God** - they might live in the spirit the way God does
- Peter's great encouragement: believers who have died are not defeated...alive with God

'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.'

Early Christian Martyrs - "You can kill us, but you cannot harm us."

There are two options for the soul – Forever in the presence of God – Forever removed

Takeaway – Are you living with eternity in view?

Can you see Heaven from your seat here on earth? Anticipating God's Final Verdict

What mindset am I carrying into my daily battle against the world?

Big Idea: The mind of Christ produces holy living that withstands worldly criticism

1. Arm Yourself with Christ's Mindset
2. Abandon your Former Way of Life
3. Anticipate God's Final Verdict