



# EXILES – A Study Through 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter – Embracing Suffering.

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Week of January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## SERMON TEXT // 1 Peter 4:1-6 English Standard Version

<sup>1</sup>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, <sup>2</sup>so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. <sup>3</sup>For 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. <sup>4</sup>With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; <sup>5</sup>but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. <sup>6</sup>For 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.

**SERMON GUIDE** // Sin is the plague of plagues. Truly understanding the sinfulness of sin is vital to our growth in Christ. That was a reality the Apostle Peter knew personally which led him to warn his readers – both ancient and modern – of the plague of plagues that is sin. This morning we will be studying the opening of **1 Peter 4**. Here, his premise in writing this particular exhortation centers around the main idea that **since Christ died for sin – we must put sin to death**. And to do so, our thinking must be that of Christ's in regards to both sin and suffering.

Here, in chapter four Peter moves from **educating** on suffering and **encouraging** us concerning suffering in order to call us to **embrace** suffering. (1 Peter 4:1-6) This may have caused quite the shock to his readers considering, at this point in their exile, they may have been looking for ways to **evade** suffering and now Peter is calling them to **embrace** suffering! We should not look to evade or avoid suffering – we should embrace it the way Christ did and advance the Gospel while doing so. That is where triumph is seen in suffering for the believer. Whether living or dying; whether we have many years left or a precious few, we are to live the rest of our days – no longer for ourselves – but for our God.

Peter calls all believers to resolve in their minds to embrace suffering rather than engage in sin. That is the purpose, the attitude, the mindset, the **same way of thinking** that is found in Christ. And that thinking shapes the way we view our **past**, understand our **present**, and look ahead to our **future**. Peter spends the next four verses explaining those truths. Let's begin with the **past**.

**SERMON TRUTH** // Since Christ died for sin we are to put sin to death by arming ourselves with the same thinking Christ had toward sin and suffering. That thinking centers around a right view of our **past**, a clear understanding of our **present**, and a hopeful look ahead toward our **future**. This is what enables us to live the rest of our days for the will of God. Believer we can embrace suffering.

REFLECT. II POINT. II MAKE.



## EXILES – A Study Through 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter – 1 Peter 4:1-6

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**Question 1** // Read 1 Peter 4:1-6. What is something from the text that resonated with you, a truth that encouraged you, or even a question you may have surrounding the text theme?

**Question 2** // Peter makes it clear in this passage that the way we live our lives as followers of Christ will be foreign to this world. **Do you have examples where others were surprised by your lifestyle in Christ? Surprised when you did not participate in things that are contrary Scripture?** Share as you feel led.

**Question 3** // One thing that is certainly alien to this world is this idea of embracing suffering. Adam challenged us on Sunday when he said, *"We should not look to evade or avoid suffering – we should embrace it the way Christ did and advance the Gospel while doing so. That is where triumph is seen in suffering for the believer."* **What challenges do we face when it comes to this idea of "Embracing suffering"?**

**Question 4** // On suffering Pastor John Piper says, *"The suffering of sickness and the suffering of persecution have this in common: they are both intended by Satan for the destruction of our faith, and governed by God for the purifying of our faith...Christ sovereignly accomplishes His loving, purifying purpose by overruling Satan's destructive attempts. Satan is always aiming to destroy our faith; but Christ magnifies His power in weakness."* **Do you agree with this quote?** Discuss the connection of having a humble heart while biblically walking in suffering.

### Reflection & Prayer

Pray and ask the Lord to give us the grace to embrace suffering in our lives. Ask Him to keep us from suffering for our sins in order to, instead, that we would suffer for living rightly before Him. Lastly, pray for the humility needed to see your suffering as an opportunity to advance the Gospel rather than something to avoid.