

1 Peter 4

Jesus

Point of 1 Peter 3:18-20: Don't miss the only way of Salvation...

Cross of Jesus Christ

I. Cease Sin by Hating Sin

God Hates Sin...Period

- From missing the mark to outright rebellion against a Holy God

When Adam and Eve sinned/Said yes after God said no...

Shock waves resounded throughout creation/curse of death began. You will surely die.

- 2nd Law of Thermodynamics: Order degrading to Chaos
- Separation from God: Jewish def. of death
- Self-destruction/Self-awareness/Selfishness/Self-pity. Me centered/miserable/blind
- Hatred of all that is good/good for us/others

Jesus took our sin. Suffered/died on the cross to buy us back from darkness

We caused His suffering/death...He gave us joy/life

1 Peter 3:18 ...Christ ...suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He [Father] made Him who knew no sin [Son] to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Jesus suffered unjustly at the hands of the wicked

That the wicked might be declared righteous?

- Purpose of Jesus suffering To bring sinners to the Father
- Purpose of our suffering for God To bring sinners to Jesus

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...

- **Arm yourself with the mind/attitude of Jesus:** Humility/Considering others
 1. Since Christ suffered **because of us** to bring us to the Father...
 2. We are called to tolerate suffering **because of others** to bring them to Jesus

Believers who suffer due to the sins of others...**cease from sin?**

Q. Why would I begin to sin less? **A.** Because I begin to **realize what sin does...**

- My sin caused Jesus to suffer/die on cross
- Sins of others cause me to suffer...a lot. A real lot
- I begin to see sin for what it is as God sees...Ugly...Cause of suffering/death. Thus...
- **I begin to hate sin...begin to cease from sin**

God Hates Sin...I Hate Sin and begin to sin-less

2 ... that [I] no longer should live the rest of [my] time in the flesh for the lusts of men, **but for the will of God.**

- Self-destruction to others reconstructed
- Self-awareness to being aware of others needs
- Selfishness to Selflessness
- Self-Pity to not thinking about self at all as I did my entire BC life...

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.

Romans 6:21 What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

1. **Lewdness:** Umbrella Term: Unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness, wantonness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence. **Flesh**
2. **Lusts:** Desire, craving, longing, desire for what is forbidden. Turn upon a thing
3. **Drunkenness:** Drinking to point uttering/doing silly things, garrulous, babbling
4. **Revelries:** In Greek writings... a nocturnal/riotous procession of half-drunken and frolicsome fellows who after supper parade through the streets with torches and music in honor of ... some [false] deity/sing/play before the houses of their male/male friends...used generally of feasts/drinking-parties that are continue till late at night
5. **Drinking Parties:** Only here. Drinking/Carousing. Partying
6. **Abominable Idolatries:** Worship of false gods. Hindu/Buddhist all over media. Pinball

**We cease from these things because we hate them and love Jesus
Calvary Chapel Testimony**

1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

- Friends ask what happened?

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.

Why don't you want to be miserable with us anymore...?
Wake up bloodshot/puking/can't wait to start over again?

- **Fear of God is Wisdom. Fear of man a snare.**

Q. Is it smart or stupid to do what is right/good?
To follow written directions of your Creator? **A. Smart**

Matthew 11:19 ... wisdom is **justified by her children.** [What are the results?]

Proverbs 3:35 The wise shall inherit glory...But shame shall be **the legacy of fools.**

- Speak evil of you? **Do you need their approval?**

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

- Everyone will give an account to Jesus

Acts 10:42 ... [Jesus]... was ordained by God to be **Judge of the living and the dead.**

Romans 14:9 ...Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

2 Timothy 4:1b... [Jesus] will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom

Revelation 20:12b... And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

- **Examples**

1. You're a goody-goody
2. You don't believe in science?
3. You don't believe this all happened by chance?
4. You don't really believe in absolute truth? Heaven/Hell?
5. You're a bigot/Hater...I am a hater...**Hater of evil and lover of good**

Matthew 12:36 ... for **every idle** word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.

- When they persecute/speak against the church... it is actually against Jesus

Acts 9:5 [Saul on way to destroy the Church] "Who are You, Lord?" ...the Lord said, "I am **Jesus whom you are persecuting.**

1 Samuel 8:7 they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me...

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.

- **NOTE:** Gospel never preached to dead people/No second chance

Hebrews 9:27 ... it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment...

- **Two interpretations of preached to dead...**

1. Gospel preached to Spiritually dead [how all men are born]
2. Gospel preached to those now dead...**before they died**

Point is the Same...

Good News is Preached because Judgment is Coming

- **When the Gospel is preached one of two things happen...**

1. **Hearer Accepts** Move from death to eternal life in the Spirit
2. **Hearer Rejects** Enter Eternity dead in sin/separated from God

Jesus offers the gift to all...The gift must be accepted

Romans 6:23 ... the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We should be as appalled at our sin as Adam/Eve as they witnessed the first death; i.e., the animal killed by God to cover their sin. We should have that same sick feeling toward sin. [NJC]

SUMARY Cease Sin by Hating Sin Seeing what it did to Jesus and what it does to us

II. Redeem the Time

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

Ephesians 5:15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 **redeeming the time**, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Romans 12:1 I beseech [urge] you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

End of this Age is Near

Be Serious about your Walk/Be Watchful in your Prayers...**It's Time**

- **Serious:** If you knew Jesus was coming today what would you change?

Romans 13:11 [Love one another] ...knowing the time, that now it **is high time to awake out of sleep**; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

James 5:8 ... be patient. Establish your hearts, for the **coming of the Lord is at hand**. 9 Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. **Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!**

He is the living Christ. We ought to talk to Him now for we are going to talk to Him hereafter. And at the judgment He is going to talk to us-That is the thing I am not so sure I am looking forward to. [JV McGee]

- Serious about our walk... Clean your room
- **Watchful in our prayers:** Listen for the Lord/Listen to the Lord /Obey the Lord

Be serious about your Walk/Be Watchful in your Prayers...It's Time

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

- **Love covers a multitude of sins**

Where love abounds in a fellowship of Christians, many small offences, and even some large ones, are readily overlooked and forgotten. But where love is lacking, every word is viewed with suspicion, every action is liable to misunderstanding, and conflicts about – to Satan’s perverse delight.” [Grudem]

- Does not negate church discipline for division, heresy, etc. [Essential for unity]
- **Generally:** Strive w/others for their best...**Love, love then love some more**

1 Corinthians 13:4 Love suffers long and is kind...

James 5:20 [Going out of our way] ... he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and **cover a multitude of sins.**

- **Q.** When do I stop striving? **A.** When a person is purposefully wasting your time.

Matthew 7:6 “Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.

- **Cover sins?** Never be offended. Bitterness is poison. Can you sit w/cup of coffee?
- **Redeem the Time:** Fervently love one another...**How?**

9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.

- **Compliment?** *We feel so blessed after you leave.* **What?**
- Be a giver of your [His] time/home w/out complaining

Giving without grumbling. Giving + grumbling = 0

2 Corinthians 9:7 ...let each one give as he purposes in his heart, **not grudgingly** or of necessity; for **God loves a cheerful giver.**

- **Redeem the Time:**
 1. Fervently Love
 2. Be hospitable w/out complaining
 3. **Share the gifts God has given you...**

10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

- **Manifold Grace:** All from same source; i.e., God’s Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:4 There are diversities of gifts, **but the same Spirit.**

Romans 12:6 [We have] **gifts differing according to the grace** that is given to us, let us use them: if **prophecy**, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or **ministry**, let us use it in our ministering; he who **teaches**, in teaching; 8 he who **exhorts**, in exhortation; he who **gives**, with liberality; he who **leads**, with diligence; he who shows **mercy**, with cheerfulness.

- **Redeem the Time:**

1. Fervently Love
2. Be hospitable w/out complaining
3. Share your gifts

Russian novelist Dostoevsky recalling his thoughts during the last five minutes before he was told he would be shot by a firing squad...

**"I should turn every minute into an age, I should lose nothing...
...I should count every minute separately and waste none."**

Psalm 90:11 Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath. 12 So **teach us to number our days**, That we may **gain a heart of wisdom**. 16 Let Your work appear to Your servants, And Your glory to their children. 17 And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, And establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, **establish the work of our hands**.

Judgment is Coming...Redeem the Time God has Given

Number our Days/Gain a Heart of Wisdom/Establish the Work of our Hands

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that **we should walk in them**.

- Every believer has a gift of the Holy Spirit

All Gifts of the Spirit must be initiated/led/empowered/sustained by the Spirit

Zechariah 4:6 'Not by might nor by power, **but by My Spirit**'

Word of wisdom, Word of knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miracles, Prophecy, Discernment, Tongues, Interpretation, Helping, Administration, Ministry/service, Encouragement, Giving, Leadership, Mercy, Apostleship, Evangelism, Pastoring, Grace, Martyrdom, Intercession, Hospitality, Celibacy, **Teaching...**

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...

- **For those who teach/preach? Give glory to God...**

1 Timothy 1:3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach **no other doctrine**, 4 nor give heed to **fables** and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith. 5 Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, 6 from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, 7 desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from

the truth, and be **turned aside to fables.**

- **Stories/Themes** replacing Systematic Study or Word in Context

Like shooting an arrow into wall and drawing a bullseye around it [our preconceived objective using obscure verses/Scripture out of context to back it] ...rather than shooting an arrow at the bullseye [What the Word says in context] revealing the correct interpretation of any given text. There are many applications but only one correct interpretation i.e., the meaning God declares in context/within entire council of His Word...**not what we want/need it to say to fit our Story or Theme or agenda.** [NJC]

- Speak with the **ability which God supplies...**
 1. True to the **Word of God**
 2. Empowered by **the Spirit of God** [ability that God supplies]

It is the unadulterated Word of God empowered by the Spirit of God that changes lives
The power is in the Word. Don't mess with the Word

- Result of each of us using our gifts w/ability God supplies? **God is glorified...**

11... that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. [Wow he/she has a Great God]

End of All Things of this Present Age is Near, therefore...

- **Redeem the Time...**
 1. **Fervent in Love** *Never* offended by others?
 2. **Hospitable** *Always* a Joyful Giver
 3. **Share gift[s]** Led by the Spirit...Love Life and See Good Days

III. Suffering for God's Glory Committing our Souls to 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...

- **Q.** How do we have victory in a Fiery Trial?
- **A.** Instead of asking why [weakness] **ask what...**
 1. What can I learn?
 2. What do I do next?

We already know why we have the trial...to try us v 12

Do we believe there is purpose in the pain...That God is up to something good?

- Fiery gr. pyrosis lit burning by which metals are roasted/reduced/refined

- **We are being purified:** Dross being removed leaving pure gold

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

- **Perfected:** Made complete/True man/True woman unlike world

I don't want to be perfected by suffering. If it was good enough for Jesus...

Hebrews 5:7 [Jesus the man] in the days of His flesh...**8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.** 9 And having **been perfected**, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him...

Jesus did not pass from disobedience to obedience. He learned obedience by actually obeying. [Guzik]

Important: Some say that we **might learn** through suffering; but that such lessons are only God's second best...Than God really intends for us to learn only by His word that it is never His real plan to teach us through trials and suffering. **But Jesus was never in the will of the Father's second best.** [Guzik]

Some things can *only be learned* by suffering. Period. Recalibration of priorities

Heb. 12 Chastisement/Discipline/Disciple/Learner

- **God's** Manifold Wisdom displayed in our suffering...
 1. For us refinement
 2. For others to draw them to the Lord...

Partakers if His Suffering. If you are going to be used by God, He will take you through a number of experiences that are not meant for you personally at all. They are designed to make you useful in His hands, and to enable you to understand what takes place in the lives of others. Because of this process, you will never be surprised by what comes your way. You say, "Oh, I can't deal with that person." Why can't you? God gave you sufficient opportunities to learn from Him about that problem; but you turned away, not heeding the lesson, because it seemed foolish to spend your time that way ...When it comes to suffering, it is part of our Christian culture to want to know God's purpose beforehand. **In the history of the Christian church, the tendency has been to avoid being identified with the sufferings of Jesus Christ.** People have sought to carry out God's orders through a shortcut of their own. God's way is **always the way of suffering**— the way of the "long road home." Are we partakers of Christ's sufferings? Are we prepared for God to stamp out our personal ambitions? Are we prepared for God to destroy our individual decisions by supernaturally transforming them? It will mean **not knowing why God is taking us that way**, because knowing would make us spiritually proud. We never realize at the time what God is putting us through— we go through it more or less without understanding. Then suddenly we come to a place of enlightenment, and realize— **"God has strengthened me and I didn't even know it!"**

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- **Our Fiery Trials are not strange...All true believers suffer for Christ**

My friend, I do not know what your problem is but I can assure you that it is not something strange. [JV McGee]

2 Timothy 3:12 ... all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

- **Way of victory:** Don't ask why...ask what

1. **What** can I learn?
2. **What** do I do next?

Some things/Really good things can only be learned through suffering so...

Don't think it strange for God to allow really hard stuff...know there is an end

13b... that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

**To the exact same extent we experience suffering for Jesus temporarily
We will experience the joy of Jesus...Here and Eternally**

Romans 8:18 ...I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us... 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son

- **Joy in temporal suffering here...** Peter knew about that

Acts 5:40 ... [When the religious leaders...] called for the apostles and beaten them... [they] commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. 42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

- **Joy Eternally when He returns...**Glad with exceeding Joy forever

Ephesians 2:7 ... that in the ages to come [God] might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. [Eternal Perspective]

14 If [when] 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.

John 8:12 "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world."

John 3:9 ... this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

- **Response to the Spirit of God in you?**

1. **Stench** of death to those who are perishing
2. **Perfume** of life to those who will be saved

Christ through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place

2 Corinthians 2:15 ... we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. 16 To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?

If everyone loves us, we may well ask ourselves if we have the Spirit of Christ and/or if we are actually sharing the Gospel... die to self and live to Christ [NJC]

John 15:18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. 21 But all these things they will do to you **for My name's sake**, because they do not know Him who sent Me.

- **Cross: Offense to man's pride**

1 Corinthians 1:23 ... we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness

1. **Jews offended** Their religion not enough
2. **Greeks offended** Their wisdom not enough

1 Corinthians 1:18 ... the **message of the cross is foolishness** to those who are perishing... but to us who are being saved it is the **power of God.**

- **Accepted/Denied not our responsibility:** We share Gospel and **God is glorified**

Matthew 5:11 Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

Matthew 10:24 "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25 It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household!

We will partake in Christ's suffering...as we do Christ's work...by Christ's Spirit
IOW's **Those who hate God will hate us...**

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

Suffering for doing wrong or being a pain in the neck?... Don't blame Jesus for it

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

- **Suffer as a Christian?** Work, school, relatives, etc.
 1. Don't be ashamed/Don't shrink back/push forward
 2. **Courage Glorifies God/Courage Proves** we believe what we say

Philippians 1:27b... [Strive] together for the faith of the gospel, 28 and not in any way terrified by your adversaries which is to them a proof of perdition [damnation] but to you of **salvation and that from God.**

When our spiritual enemies fail to make us afraid, they have failed completely because they really have **no other weapon than fear and intimidation.** [Guzik] [Hate bullies]

**Courage in the face of threats sends the fear of God/His coming judgment
Into the hearts of those who would seek to intimidate us**

- We will be judged regarding courage in the face of intimidation...

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

- **Judgment begins at the House of God:**

1. Salvation is secure/Rewards are not
2. **Bema seat of Christ:** Motives of believers will be judged

1 Corinthians 3:12 ... if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be **revealed by fire**; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

- Every person will stand before Jesus judged by works...

1. Christians	Bema Seat of Christ	Reward	Death/Rapture
2. Unbelievers	White Throne Judgment	Degree	End of 1000 years

2 Corinthians 5:10 For **we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Knowing, therefore, **the terror of the Lord**, we persuade men

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

- **Scarcely Saved?** Miracle: By grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone

If those covered by His blood must give account to Him for what we did...

What will be the fate of those who appear at before Jesus covered in own works?

Matthew 22:11 "... when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. 12 So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Christians can rejoice that the sufferings we face in this life are the worst we will ever face throughout all eternity. [Yet...] those who reject Jesus Christ have seen the best of life their eternal existence will ever see. [Guzik]

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.

- **Therefore...**

1. Since all who desire to be Godly will suffer
2. Since we are called to glorify God in suffering

Remember to commit your soul to God and continue to do good

Get better not bitter in trials

- **Remember:** Jesus already knows what you are going through...

1 Peter 2:23 [Jesus] .. when [Jesus] was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but **committed Himself to Him who judges righteously...**

- **We commit our souls to our Faithful Creator:** He's not messing with us

He is our sovereign Creator, with the right to do with us as He pleases. Yet He is faithful, and will only do what is **ultimately best for us.** [Guzik]

**Are we persuaded that even in suffering God is Good and does Good?
Are we persuaded that we don't suffer in vain? Purpose in the Pain?**

2 Timothy 1:12 [Appointed for the salvation of souls] For this reason **I also suffer...** nevertheless **I am not ashamed,** for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that **He is able to keep what I have committed to Him** until that Day.

Haters of God will hate us...We will partake in Christ's suffering
God will use our suffering to save them/perfect us...if we let Him [Heb. 12]

Don't Rebel in the Valley only to be Ashamed on the Mountaintop

Psalms 37:5 **Commit your way to the Lord,** Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass. 6 He shall **bring forth your righteousness as the light,** And your justice as the noonday. 7 Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him...