

# Dead to Sin

1 Peter 4:1-6

Once you've found your way back to your seats, go ahead and find 1 Peter 4 in your Bibles.

Throughout 1st Peter, we've seen the LIVING HOPE believers have in Christ despite PERSECUTION. We've heard Christ's call, through Peter, for believers to demonstrate an UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO HOLINESS for the sake of the lost around them. The outworking of such a commitment has been detailed as SUBMISSION to human authority from the heights of government to authority in the marketplace (workplace) and in the home, understanding that because of the wickedness of those in authority (in their lostness), such submission inevitably entails SUFFERING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE.

Such suffering doesn't seem right to us; however, as we discussed the last time I taught, the inherent sinfulness of this world that invariably worms its way into our lives necessitates suffering through the brokenness that sin has ushered into the world. This matures us as Christ's followers, equipping us with perseverance, proven character, and unfailing HOPE, and it even GLORIFIES GOD.

CHRIST CALLS US TO NOTHING THAT HE HIMSELF HASN'T ALREADY DONE. He has suffered everything we have suffered to an infinitely greater degree; the suffering we experience for following Him—that is, if we're following Him to the point that it's noticeable enough to the world to invite persecution—is merely one more step along the journey of following Him. We follow Him in obedience, and we follow Him through suffering that we may also follow Him through RESURRECTION to GLORY. Suffering isn't the end (Romans 8:18).

So, TONIGHT, with all of this in mind—our call to hope, to submit, to bless, and to suffer—we continue to look at our journey THROUGH YET APART from this world. Picking up in verse one, Peter writes...

## **1 Peter 4:1-6**

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

CHRIST SUFFERED. I think Peter's made that pretty clear, don't you? In chapter one Peter said that the prophets of old "**predicted the sufferings of Christ.**" In chapter two he tells us that, "**because Christ also suffered for [us],**" suffering is INCLUDED in following Him. Last week, as Pastor Dale taught, Peter

explained that "**Christ also suffered once for sins**" in order to bring us to God. In tonight's passage, having laid the foundation of how "**Christ suffered in the flesh**," Peter tells us to lean into suffering, MENTALLY PREPARING ourselves to suffer. He'll go on to encourage us to "**share Christ's sufferings**," and as "**witness[es] of the sufferings of Christ**," he'll encourage the elders then and today to shepherd the flock among them. CHRIST SUFFERED. That's the PRECEDENT. Having made that much very clear, Peter gives the PRECEPT. Read it again...

### **1 Peter 4:1-3**

**1 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, 2 so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. 3 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.**

CHRIST SUFFERED, and the PRECEPT that Peter gives is to tell these persecuted saints to PREPARE THEMSELVES for suffering. He didn't give them tips on how to AVOID it, or to soften the blow of suffering by EXPECTING it. He told them to essentially EMBRACE it. The word Peter used translated "**arm yourselves**" referred to a soldier putting on armor, gearing up for battle. Paul's teaching in his letter to the Ephesians on armoring up for spiritual warfare comes to mind. The thing we're arming ourselves with is a "**way of thinking**."

The Scriptures exhort us to think, to ponder, to meditate, or to muse, and they must because so often we are prone to THOUGHTLESSNESS. The increase of technology hasn't brought us the ease its inventors promised; we are just able (and therefore expected) to DO MORE. We live with SO MUCH COMING AT US—the constant distraction of entertainment and the constant demands of our schedules and work. As such we're prone to JUST DOING THINGS with little thought and even less prayer. It's been said that, if the Devil can't make you bad, he'll make you busy, and I believe that's because of the undeniable connection between holiness, discipleship, and our THOUGHT LIVES.

The psalms BEGIN...

### **Psalm 1:1-3**

**1 Blessed is the man  
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law he MEDITATES day and night.  
3 He is like a tree  
planted by streams of water  
that yields its fruit in its season,  
and its leaf does not wither.**

**In all that he does, he prospers.**

Elsewhere, perhaps from a different psalmist, we read...

**Psalm 119:97**

**Oh how I love your law!**

**It is my MEDITATION all the day.** ["I think about Your Word ALL THE TIME!!!"]

In the proverbs of Solomon, we're taught...

**Proverbs 4:26**

**PONDER the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure.**

Later on, Solomon wrote about a time when he came upon a vineyard that had been left to ruin...

**Proverbs 24:32-34**

**32 Then I saw and CONSIDERED it;**

**I looked and received INSTRUCTION.**

**33 A little sleep, a little slumber,  
a little folding of the hands to rest,**

**34 and poverty will come upon you like a robber,  
and want like an armed man.**

Many generations later, a lawyer asked Jesus for the greatest commandment in the law...

**Matthew 22:37**

**And he said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your MIND.**

The Apostle Paul wrote that we are "**transformed by the renewal of [our] mind.**" THIS is REPENTANCE, and this "change of mind" must be a regular part of our lives. To the Corinthians, Paul wrote that we "**take every thought captive to obey Christ**" (2 Corinthians 10:5), and then in his letter to the Philippians, after having already encouraged them to have the MIND of Christ (Philippians 2:5), Paul wrote...

**Philippians 4:8**

**Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, THINK about these things.**

And I would argue that it was Paul who wrote in the letter to the Hebrews that pondering on such things, things that are fully encapsulated in the Scriptures, are what train our powers of discernment to

distinguish good from evil (Hebrews 5:14). TIME AND AGAIN, God through His inspired writers is telling us to THINK! THINK! Think on more than what you have to do today! Think on more than what's right in front of you! Think on God's Word, and not just when it's open in your lap! Think about your life and God's PURPOSE for it! Think on how you arrived where you are in life, on God's faithfulness through it all even in spite of past careless or rebellious decisions, and think on where HE would have you go from here. As we do this, we LOVE GOD WITH ALL OUR MIND.

As suffering and persecution are taken into account, our thought lives equip us to EMBRACE SUFFERING, DONNING it like BATTLE GEAR.

### **1 Peter 4:1**

**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,**

In one eloquent, Spirit-inspired sentence you have the PRECEDENT, PRECEPT, PURPOSE. CHRIST SUFFERED (the precedent). As His followers, we're to EMBRACE SUFFERING (the precept). What's the PURPOSE? To LET IT ARM YOU AGAINST SIN. How is that? Well, in last week's study, we looked at how Christ suffered FOR sin. His suffering was brought on by OUR SIN just as OUR SUFFERING IS BROUGHT ON BY OUR SIN. Suffering is an inescapable condition of our existence in this sin-broken world, and as we recognize that that condition is only EXACERBATED by personal sin, we're HARDENED AGAINST SIN.

Heartache, physical pain, mental illness, and death come FROM SIN, not personal sin necessarily, but as a result of a world that's BROKEN because of sin. Certainly, being hated and persecuted comes FROM SIN. As you and I and our loved ones experience these things, our hearts are grieved. Even within a lost person's heart something tells them, *"This is not the way things are supposed to be."* THEIR problem, however, is that they have yet to make the CONNECTION between sin and its consequent suffering, and so they trouble themselves beyond the already existent troubles brought upon everyone in this world through original sin.

As we acknowledge the sinful source of suffering and the fact that, because of the brokenness of this world, suffering is a part of following Jesus as well—He suffered so we suffer in His footsteps—we are HARDENED against sin. That's the PURPOSE. This goes hand-in-hand with one of the CHIEF COMPLAINTS against God from the lost, that being the presence of EVIL in this world. It's been referred to as the "problem of evil," and make no mistake, it is a problem, but not an incomprehensible one. The lost complain, *"I can't accept the notion of your God's existence,"* they say, *"because of all the evil in the world. If God's as good and loving and powerful as you say He is, why doesn't He do something about evil?"* One day He will, but I must point out that such a question isn't honest. You see, by "evil" the person asking the question doesn't mean "sin" but rather its associated suffering. They don't want to stop sinning, they just want the consequences of sin to go away, but that would enable them to live in perpetual rebellion against Him without consequence, and BECAUSE of God's goodness and love and justice, He can't do that. It's the suffering brought on by sin that teaches us to RIGHTLY HATE it. Peter is writing about a MILITANT HOSTILITY, not toward sinners, but TOWARD SIN and our old lives.

This is why we embrace suffering. WHAT A CRAZY THING TO SAY! However, we can do so because we know that our suffering didn't somehow SLIP PAST God, but rather came into our live THROUGH HIS HANDS with a PURPOSE! "Rejoice," as James says. "God, this is HARD." Rejoice. He's working in you.

"**Jesus suffered in the flesh**," specifically meaning that HE DIED, yet He lives. In Christ, WE HAVE DIED, yet we still live, as Paul wrote...

### **Galatians 2:20**

**I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**

My OLD LIFE of selfishness and sin ended (not perfectly, I know, due to the fact that I still drag around this unredeemed flesh), and my NEW LIFE in Christ has begun. Pastor Dale taught on this BREAK from the past life last week as he explained Peter's triplicate illustration of Christ's DEATH AND RESURRECTION, Noah and his family's passage THROUGH THE FLOOD, and BAPTISM. [MOTIONING] "Buried with him by baptism, raised to walk again in newness of life." The ordinance of baptism is certainly a picture of what Christ did FOR us historically and what He's done IN us personally, but it's so much more than that. This is where the TWO BAPTISMS, Believer's Baptism and Baptism into Christ's Death sort of BLEED INTO ONE ANOTHER. When Peter described baptism as "**an appeal to God for a good conscience**," he was speaking of a COMMITMENT. A translation of "appeal" that we might more readily understand is "PLEDGE." Baptism of a believer by IMMERSION was a PUBLIC IDENTIFICATION with the LORDSHIP of Jesus Christ. It WASN'T ENTERED INTO LIGHTLY, just as taking communion (the only other ecclesiastic ordinance) with known sin wasn't taken lightly. First century converts were likely grilled for soundness in faith and doctrine before being baptized, and by following through on their PLEDGE to Jesus Christ at baptism, to FOLLOW HIM the rest of their days, they maintained a GOOD CONSCIENCE. You see that BREAK? Peter wrote that "**whoever has suffered in the flesh**," that is, DIED with Christ (broken with the old life; it's gone; dead and BURIED), "**has ceased from sin...**"

### **1 Peter 4:2-3**

**2 so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh** [the rest of their LIVES] **no longer for human passions but for the will of God. 3 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.**

Now, so as to be able to refer back to it as needed throughout the rest of this message, turn with me to Romans 6. Hold both places, 1 Peter 4 and Romans 6, so we can flip back and forth between them. Romans 6 is Paul's version of Peter's instructions. He wrote...

### **Romans 6:1-7**

**1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in**

**order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin.**

Now here we delve more deeply into the Baptism into Christ's death. Some might say I'm splitting hairs distinguishing BETWEEN Believer's Baptism and the Baptism into Christ's Death, but I argue that they are two separate things. The IDENTIFICATION baptism that is a believer's IMMERSION in water is certainly an IMAGE of Christ's work in the past as well as what has happened to that individual believer, but the Baptism into Christ's Death is the REALITY. Whether or not a person who REPENTS and calls on Christ in FAITH is ever immersed in what we know as Believers' Baptism, the reality in the eyes of the Father is that the believer was JUDGED IN THE FLESH just like Christ. In Christ, he DIED. In Christ, YOU DIED! However, JUST LIKE CHRIST, you and I were QUICKENED or MADE ALIVE in the spirit—no longer dead in our trespasses and sins, but made ALIVE TOGETHER WITH HIM (Ephesians 2:1, 5). This is something teachers of the Word sometimes call EXCHANGED LIFE SPIRITUALITY, which is just another way of looking at or THINKING ABOUT who we are in Christ.

All that to say that this is WHY Paul ZEALOUSLY asked, "**How can we who died to sin still live in it?!**" DEATH is NOT just some brilliant ILLUSTRATION Paul employed to help us understand what has happened to us as believers; IT IS REALITY! Such a life of habitual sin is an IMPOSSIBILITY for the believer! Now, yes, as I've already conceded, we won't live the rest of our days in sinless perfection because of the presence of the flesh in our lives. The flesh, or the "*self-life*" as Praying Hyde called it, will be a part of our existence in this world until we leave it in physical death or the rapture. For this reason, he said...

***"Self must not only be dead but buried out of sight, for the stench of the unburied self-life will frighten souls away from Jesus."***

It was REVEALED to Paul that "**We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life,**" and that the "**one who has died has been set free from sin**" (Romans 6:4, 7). Peter now writes that the rest of our lives are to be lived for the will of God. We've spent enough of our lives living for the things that the Gentiles (the lost) say is "really living."

Now, as you all know, I've never made any effort to hide the fact that I'm a nerd (I don't think many begrudge me for it), so when I read this passage, "**the time that is past suffices,**" I think of a scene from one of my favorite comic book movies, "The Avengers." The scene opens up in an old, dimly lit gym, and all you can hear is the sound of someone working over a boxing bag...



Then you see him, Steve Rogers, a.k.a Captain America, absolutely pummeling the bag. Between punches you see the WWII flashbacks he's having until we see him finally sacrifice himself by crashing an out-of-control bomber into the icy sea to protect his country. He didn't know he'd survive, but he's Captain America, so long story short, he survived being frozen in ice for 70 years. That last flashback upsets him to the point that he punches the bag across the room, rupturing it and sending sand everywhere. He just hangs another bag and gets back to work.

Nick Fury, super spy and Director of S.H.I.E.L.D. appears from the shadows and asks Steve, "*Trouble sleeping?*" Cap replies, "*Slept for 70 years, sir. Think I've had my fill.*" The conversation that follows leads to Director Fury giving Captain America a mission. The whole scene is great, but those two lines are what stick in my mind. "*Slept for 70 years, sir. Think I've had my fill.*" It was time to do something different. Peter told these scattered believers to live the rest of their lives for God's will...

### **1 Peter 4:3**

**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.**

Peter says, "*You spent enough time living like the Gentiles before you were saved.*" Think for a moment. How do you look back on your life before you came to Christ? Some folks can't help but glorify their former lives of sin, which is essentially EXHUMING the corpse of their old life and attempting to show it off to people. I can't. When I look back at my life before Christ, I'm ashamed. There's ZERO affinity in my heart for those lost years, and every day I walk with Christ, I endeavor to put more and more ground between me and the old man in that hole.

The "**sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry**" that Peter referred to is a first century description of the late night parties in the homes of social club patrons

where the guests would get so drunk that the men would have pursued the slave women or boys. The description was equally applicable to the Greco-Roman religious festivals. The inebriated, immoral worship of idols and false deities permeated virtually all aspects of Gentile life then, and such lewd paganism is still going strong today. We've all heard of people who wrecked their lives through drunken or drama-filled decisions or by making their life all about the wrong thing, essentially worshiping it. We shake our heads and raise our eyebrows in bewilderment and facetiously exclaim, "*What a life!*"

We have to be careful in this, though. It's easy to begin looking down on those still mired in such debauchery; that's merely our flesh masquerading as the Spirit. Peter and Paul both reminded believers (US) that we once lived in such sin, and that NOW we're NEW! Now we see it all for the vile, shameless corruption that it is! The Holy Spirit is CHANGING US **"both to will and to work for his good pleasure!"**

That said, the change in which we rejoice actually incites a very different reaction in the lost folks we used to run with. Peter continues...

#### **1 Peter 4:4**

**With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you;**

Evangelism is confrontational. As a church body, in the midst of these 50 Days of Prayer, we're acutely aware of that fact. We feel it. As Peter exhorts, we "**arm [ourselves]**" with the mentality that embraces suffering, militantly standing against sin as we endeavor to live for God's will the rest of our days, and we thus "**arm [ourselves]**" because of the response we know is coming from those we would reach. The LOST are SURPRISED, and they MALIGN us.

The Greek word "xen-id'-zo" translated "surprise" means that our new behavior is STRANGE to the lost, even SHOCKING. We look at the behavior of the lost (like what Peter just described with the drinking parties), and because God has changed us, our first thought is, "*How do they live that way?*" They refuse to get out of bed at a decent hour so they can't keep a job for more than a few months; then they're scrambling for a season, wondering how they're going to pay their bills or put gas in their car. When they're employed and off, they're drunk or high until time to go back to work. Sometimes they find someone who will put up with such a reckless lifestyle, but such insecurity and stress eventually gets old for one of them, and that person leaves, blowing the home apart. Now their heart's broken and maybe they get to see their kids from time to time. We look at the devastation—the destroyed family, financial distress, sometimes physical danger, and general lack, you know, the dumpster fire they call a life—and think, "*I could never live that way! How can they not tell that they're destroying themselves?!*" But, you see, that's NORMAL to them. They see NOTHING WRONG with it!

Meanwhile, they look at the way we live—our desire to live for God and not ourselves, for eternity and not for this temporary world—and see it as BORING and DREARY, and if we ever give the slightest HINT that our way is superior to theirs, well, then our lifestyle becomes SELF-RIGHTEOUS, JUDGMENTAL, BIGOTED, and HATEFUL. Because we're SOJOURNERS in this world, we're like a FOREIGNER pointing out



a cultural aspect in the life of a local and telling them, *"You're doing it wrong."* That's when the MALIGNING starts; we'll come back to that. This past Sunday's message on DATING is the perfect example of this! I don't think there could've been a better forward to tonight's particular message from Peter. We look at the westernized, 50s-inspired turnstile system of dating, knowing that it is NOT scriptural and that the only thing it prepares us to do is have a turnstile system of divorce and remarriage, but we endorse it for our kids as a viable pathway to marriage ANYWAY! Peter shouts into our lives, *"Haven't you lived like a lost person for long enough?! Haven't you had your fill?! You're supposed to think and live DIFFERENTLY!!!"* Yes, when we begin making family and household decisions, business decisions, political decisions, and so forth according to GOD'S WILL, we're going to SURPRISE folks! We're going to seem STRANGE to them, "peculiar" as Peter has already described, meaning "a people for [God's] own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). They're going to MALIGN us, but WHO CARES?! I don't need people to agree with me to know that what I believe is true! I'm just AGREEING WITH GOD!

The NET Bible translates the word "malign" as VILIFY. In order to soothe their troubled spirit regarding the distinction between their lives and ours, the lost seek to make us the BAD GUYS. They have no reasonable argument that legitimizes their lifestyle and exposes ours (when you get into reason, you're on God's turf), so they skip the reason and go straight to insults. "I'm right and you're EVIL!" The word translated "malign" literally means to BLASPHEME, but its target is the individual Christian, not God (given that He doesn't remotely factor into their thoughts or lives).

WHY such a VISCERAL RESPONSE??? Our abstinence is convicting. It's a confrontational act that declares the wickedness of such a lifestyle with hardly a word. However, this response also stems from the fact that such a lifestyle USED TO BE good enough for us. Peter told his readers that they had already devoted enough time to such debauchery. NOW the lost folks we may have ONCE run with look at us and ask, *"What happened? You're too good for this now, huh? Too good for US?"* I think this could also be part of the reason that they see us as hypocrites; such a lifestyle once agreed with us, but now we say it doesn't, and they can't fathom how anyone would ever abandon sin. Make no mistake, a life of sin deafens the ears of those we say need to be saved from their sin, but I believe part of their accusation of hypocrisy rests in their assumption that we're still like them, but we say we're not, so they call us hypocrites. As we live our message, walk our talk, they're surprised at our STRANGE NEW BEHAVIOR and MALIGN us for it. In the same context as Noah's family's safe passage THROUGH the waters, Peter described the debauchery of the lost as a "FLOOD," as if the lost around us don't understand why we don't jump off the ark and swim around in the destruction with them, and they call us PRUDES.

#### **1 Peter 4:5-6**

**5 but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 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.**

Now, the way it's written is somewhat confusing, but this does NOT describe a second chance to be saved after death. Otherwise, why trust Christ and suffer for it now when you could just live like a pagan now and still get saved in the hereafter? No, this is encouragement to those who were enduring persecution; those who had suffered persecution to the point of death still lived because of their faith by the AUTHORITY OF THE JUDGE.

This idea of **"Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead"** was part of Peter's message to the Roman centurion Cornelius and the Gentiles with him at Caesarea. Peter reminded them about all that they had heard about Jesus' miracles and death...

### **Acts 10:42-43**

**42 And he commanded us [Peter said] to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. 43 To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.**

That description **"the living and the dead"** is NOT SPIRITUAL BUT PHYSICAL. It refers to those still walking the earth and those who have left this world in death. When Peter mentioned **"those who are dead,"** he was talking about Christian martyrs. **"The gospel was preached"** to them, they believed in Jesus and were consequently judged in the flesh **"the way people are,"** or another translation is, **"according to [wicked] men."** However, their suffering has ended; they now **"live in the spirit the way God does,"** which can also be translated **"according to God."** Such a translation, **"according to man...according to God,"** reveals the CONTRAST between (wicked) man's endeavors and God's unstoppable will. The devil, through wicked actors, attempted to judge these believers with FINALITY, but Jesus proves that HE ALONE IS THE JUDGE, and because of their faith, they LIVE.

PETER'S EMPHASIS IS THAT WE CEASE FROM SIN AND LIVE FOR GOD'S WILL THE REST OF OUR DAYS, REGARDLESS OF HOW WE'RE TREATED FOR IT. Therefore, he says "arm yourselves" with the same mind as Christ, a way of thinking that embraces the suffering associated with following Jesus in this world. No, the lost won't understand, and we'll pay the price for it now. To avoid it or merely expect it doesn't ARM us to sojourn on in spite of it like EMBRACING it does. It's truly one more step on the journey of following Jesus, suffering as He suffered at the hands of men. However, man's judgment isn't the final judgment; that belongs to Christ alone. They'll receive their judgment later while we receive our reward, and that will be FOREVER. As Paul wrote...

### **Romans 8:18**

**For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.**

Therefore, may we run headlong at the suffering, charging through it like our Lord as we live the rest of our days until glory for His will.