

## Living for God

**1** So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have finished with sin.<sup>[a]</sup> **2** You won't spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God. **3** You have had enough in the past of the evil things that godless people enjoy—their immorality and lust, their feasting and drunkenness and wild parties, and their terrible worship of idols.

**4** Of course, your former friends are surprised when you no longer plunge into the flood of wild and destructive things they do. So they slander you. **5** But remember that they will have to face God, who stands ready to judge everyone, both the living and the dead. **6** That is why the Good News was preached to those who are now dead<sup>[b]</sup>—so although they were destined to die like all people,<sup>[c]</sup> they now live forever with God in the Spirit.<sup>[d]</sup>

**7** The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers. **8** Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. **9** Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay.

**10** God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. **11** Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

## Suffering for Being a Christian

**12** Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. **13** Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.

**14** If you are insulted because you bear the name of Christ, you will be blessed, for the glorious Spirit of God<sup>[e]</sup> rests upon you.<sup>[f]</sup> **15** If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people's affairs. **16** But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name! **17** For the time has come for judgment, and it must begin with God's household. And if judgment begins with us, what terrible fate awaits those who have never obeyed God's Good News?<sup>18</sup> And also, "If the righteous are barely saved, what will happen to godless sinners?"<sup>[g]</sup>

**19** So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you.

1. **Think and Believe with Jesus' Mindset (4:1-3) John 8:32**

32 And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

a. New Identity **Phil. 2:5-8**

5 You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. 6 Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. 7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, 8 he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. [humility - gave up his rights]

b. New Family **Matt 12:46-49**

46 As Jesus was speaking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. 47 Someone told Jesus, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, and they want to speak to you." 48 Jesus asked, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" 49 Then he pointed to his disciples and said, "Look, these are my mother and brothers. 50 Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother!"

c. New Mission **John 5:19**

19 So Jesus explained, "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does."

d. New Hope **Matthew 5:11-12**

11 "God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. 12 Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way."

Benefits of suffering:

1. You've finished with sin.
2. You won't waste your life.
3. Anxious to do the will of God. Find purpose.
4. You've given up damaging things.

**2. Love and Serve with Honor (4:7-11)**

Actions:

1. Earnest and disciplined in prayer.
2. Show deep love.
3. Share your home.

4. Use your spiritual gifts.

Galatians 5:13-15

13 For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.

14 For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 15 But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another.

### 3. **Grieve and Suffer with Hope** (4:4-6 and 4:12-16)

People slander when they feel left behind/hurt/condemned/scored.

Psalm 30:5

5 For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime. Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning.

### 4. **Rest and Continue with the Promise of Vindication** (4:17-19)

Consequences of slander: (verse 5)

1. Face to face with God.
2. Judged.

Galatians 6:7-10

7 Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant.

8 Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.

9 So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. 10 Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.

Joy is the greatest benefit of trusting God in and through persecution.

**Verse 19** Summary

Difference between judgement and condemnation.

[https://www.openbible.info/topics/judging\\_others](https://www.openbible.info/topics/judging_others)

1. Right from wrong.
2. Pass/Fail.
3. A line.
4. Not a score.
5. Not sentencing.
6. Not comparison.

Delayed sentencing.

Hypocrisy, not judgement is what is wrong.