

With Hope, Pete10

“Different”

1 Peter 4:1-6 NAS

1 Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

-The word *therefore* is a word of summary that connects what the author is about to say with what he has just said. What Peter has just said is that Christ has suffered and died on our behalf, the just for the unjust.

-So this command to “arm yourselves” literally means to arm oneself with weapons. The picture is of preparation for battle.

-The primary weapon Peter calls for in arming believers is the same purpose that was manifest through Christ’s suffering and death; this purpose is a willingness to die.

-Peter is not expressing anything new to his readers because Jesus had taught that “if anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me” (Luke 9:23).

***2 so as to live the rest of the time in
the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for
the will of God.***

-Peter is telling suffering believers to arm themselves with a commitment to do the will of God and abandon their former sins. They are to live the remainder of their days living out the will of God. Sin is an expression of self (their old life pattern) will rather than God's will (their new life pattern).

3 For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts , drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.

4 In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you;

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

-This passage is a vivid description of the tragic and devastating life pattern of the unconverted, which ends ultimately in judgment.

-Peter reminds believers to leave all that behind because it belongs to their former life in sin. He is saying that a sinful past is to be a closed book. Pete then gets descriptive about what behavior he is talking about.

Sensuality (*aselgeia*) – describes those who engage in unbridled, unrestrained vice of all sorts. Often translated “debauchery”.

Lusts (*epithumia*) – are the sinful passions that drive people into such indulgence.

Drunkeness (*oinophlugia*) – it literally means “wine bubbling up” and refers to habitual intoxication.

Carousing (*komos*) refers to participating in wild parties or orgies.

Drinking parties (*potos*) were sessions people engaged in just for the sake of becoming inebriated.

Abominable idolatries denote the immoral, debauched worship of false gods.

-This behavior had been many of Peter’s audience former life and they were not to return to it.

-Many of their still unsaved acquaintances were surprised they stopped behaving this way and some began to speak evil of them. This led to unjust persecution and suffering for righteousness’ sake.

-Peter assures them that their former friends would stand in judgment one day for this persecution.

6 For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.

-Peter reminds his readers that the saving message of Christ changed some who have already died from persecution, but that they are alive in spirit.

Bottom Line – Living for Christ is living differently; a different life that will cost us.