

Wednesday, February 14, 2024  
THE WRITINGS OF PETER  
PART 7

Let's continue of study of the writings of Peter, the apostle this evening by looking at chapter 4 of 1 Peter.

Remember the three themes of 1 Peter?

1. Suffering
2. Submission
3. Sanctification

We are back to studying suffering.

1 Peter 4:1-6 (NIV)

“Therefore” is another word bridging phrases together. It is telling us that – since Christ suffered at the hands of the unrighteous, we should take up the view that we will suffer at the hands of the unrighteous. We usually don't suffer because we say we believe; we usually suffer because we “live” what we believe. He who lives the gospel has experienced the death of sin in their lives. Have you ever been persecuted because you did not do what unbelievers do? God will judge evil in the unbeliever. Verse 6 refers to Peter's recount of Christ preaching to the spirits in prison.

For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead. —This version is misleading and seems indeed to be one of those rare cases where the original has been expanded by the translators for doctrinal ends. The Greek is simply, *for this end was the gospel preached to the dead also*, or, still more literally, *to dead men also*. No one with an unpreoccupied mind could doubt, taking this clause by itself, that the persons to whom this preaching was made were dead at the time of being preached to. If this is the case, then, pretty obviously, St. Peter is carrying us back to his teaching of 1Peter 3:19, and is explaining further the purpose of Christ's descent into hell. *Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers*

Again, the ability to interpret these verses is difficult. There's trouble with how some interpret this to mean that the gospel was preached to the righteous martyred. Could Jesus have appeared in Hades after His death? Could His appearance have verified God's righteous judgment in the Flood? Is there some type of parallel between what is said here and:

1 Corinthians 5:5 (NIV)

### 1 Peter 4:7-11 (NIV)

With the coming judgment in mind, keep close to Jesus. Defeat sin through love. Minister to one another the grace you have received. This glorifies God.

### 1 Peter 4:12-19 (NIV)

Don't be surprised if you are persecuted. Rejoice because great is your reward. Persecution for Christ is a testimony to His presence.

### Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV)

Remember: the hardship of this world is the closest you will get to judgment. God uses these instances to reveal His glory and to grow us into Christ's image. In your suffering, commit yourself to the will of your faithful Creator. In suffering, do not respond as the world does – looking for someone to blame or blaspheme.

### Romans 5:3-5 (NIV)

Continue to live a faithful life.

Today's Scriptures:

- 1 Peter 4:1-6 (NIV)
- 1 Corinthians 5:5 (NIV)
- 1 Peter 4:7-11 (NIV)
- 1 Peter 4:12-19 (NIV)
- Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV)
- Romans 5:3-5 (NIV)