

# 1 Peter 4:1-3

## Suffering & Death

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# Because of Christ

*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,*

- *Therefore*<sup>1</sup>
  - ▶ Christ died and was buried and rose again
  - ▶ Through which we are saved and are brought back to God
- *since Christ has suffered in the flesh*
  - ▶ *Suffered* used for the believer in 2:19,20,21,23; 3:14,17; 4:15,19; 5:10
  - ▶ Christ's suffering ended in death
  - ▶ Why does Peter keep bringing us back to Christ's suffering?
    - ★ To give perspective?
    - ★ To provide endurance?
  - ▶ How is Christ's suffering relevant to us today<sup>2</sup>?
    - ★ See 4:13

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<sup>1</sup>See 3:18-22

<sup>2</sup>Hint: it has to do with our identity

# Bearing arms

*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,*

- *Arm yourself*

- ▶ Derived from word used in Luke 11:21
- ▶ A principle of preparation
  - ★ Similar entreaties to preparation in 1:13 & 4:7 & 5:8
  - ★ Ephesians 6:13 – the full armor of God

- *Same purpose*

- ▶ Same word in Hebrews 4:12 – *...intentions of the heart.*
- ▶ Similar to Philippians 2:5 – the attitude of Christ
- ▶ What was Christ's purpose in enduring suffering?
  - ★ 2:24 – that we might be healed
  - ★ 3:18 – that he might bring us back to God
- ▶ What does all that have to do with our suffering?
  - ★ Our suffering can<sup>3</sup> point to Christ's – See 2:12

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<sup>3</sup>should?

# Dead to rights

*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 Flesh*

- ▶ Same word used 3:18 & 21
  - ★ Used throughout the NT as well
- ▶ Is this the old man, or the physical body?<sup>4</sup>

- *Ceased from sin*<sup>5</sup>

- ▶ 1 John 3:6 – *No one who abides in Him sins*
- ▶ See pretty much all of Paul<sup>6</sup>'s writings, specifically Romans 6:1-7
- ▶ Does this mean suffering purges us from sin?<sup>7</sup>
  - ★ What role does suffering play in our spiritual growth?
  - ★ Is Peter even talking about spiritual growth here?

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<sup>4</sup>Hint: look back at verse 3:18

<sup>5</sup>How's that?

<sup>6</sup>Peter certainly was familiar with Paul's teachings – 2 Peter 3:14-16

<sup>7</sup>as in Christian asceticism

# We live!

*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*

- *so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh*
  - ▶ This is certainly referring to our earthly existence
  - ▶ Seems clear God has a plan and purpose for us once we are saved<sup>8</sup>
  - ▶ What ends *the rest of the time*?
    - ★ 2:12 – the day of visitation<sup>9</sup>
- *no longer for the lusts of men*
  - ▶ This is a regular warning from Peter
    - ★ 1:14 & 2:11 – the passions of the flesh
  - ▶ How might these lusts manifest themselves as we respond to suffering/persecution?<sup>10</sup>
    - ★ 2:1<sup>11</sup> – malice and deceit and hypocrisy and envy and slander

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<sup>8</sup>a.k.a. God's will (also, imagine that)

<sup>9</sup>i.e. Christ's return and our resurrection

<sup>10</sup>We get some insight into this in the next verse

<sup>11</sup>maybe?

## So it goes

*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's broad thoughts on *the will of God*<sup>12</sup>
  - ▶ 1:3-5 – God has given us hope and inheritance
  - ▶ 1:14-16 – God's holiness demand ours
- Peter's thoughts on *the will of God* specific to suffering/persecution
  - ▶ 2:21-23 – respond to suffering as Christ did
    - ★ Reiterated in 3:9 – decidedly NOT “eye for an eye”
  - ▶ 4:19 – suffering can be part of God's will<sup>13</sup>
  - ▶ 5:10 – Christ will *perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you*
    - ★ Peter bookends his epistle with assurances of our future resurrection
- Summary: suffering/persecution is an essential & unavoidable aspect of the Christian's life
  - ▶ 4:12 – ...*do not be surprised...*
  - ▶ John 15:18 – the world hates you because it hates Christ

<sup>12</sup>What he's (that is, God) determined to be true

<sup>13</sup>we'll let Roger tell us more about this in a few weeks

## Enough already (a.k.a. All things new)

*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.*

- *For the time already past*<sup>14</sup>
  - ▶ 1:14-17 – ...passions of your former ignorance...
  - ▶ 2:10 – ...now you have received mercy...
- *Sufficient*
  - ▶ Matthew 6:34 – Each day has enough troubles
  - ▶ Clearly, we should engage in a certain amount of debauchery<sup>15</sup>
- *the desires of the Gentiles*
  - ▶ Is this referring to the earthly people group?
  - ▶ Contrast with 2:9 – ...you are a chosen people...

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<sup>14</sup>We are now no longer what we used to be

<sup>15</sup>we should have a rumspringa, right?

## La vita loca

*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.***

- What is the “way of the Gentile”?
  - ▶ **tl;dr – unbridled hedonism**
  - ▶ *sensuality* – unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness, wantonness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence
  - ▶ *lusts* – desire, craving, longing, desire for what is forbidden, lust
  - ▶ *drunkenness* – i.e. excess
  - ▶ *carousing* – a.k.a. a Bacchanal
  - ▶ *drinking parties* – see above
  - ▶ *abominable*<sup>16</sup> *idolatries* – the vices springing from idolatry and peculiar to it
- How does this fit in with our<sup>17</sup> responding to persecution?

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<sup>16</sup>or lawless

<sup>17</sup>we believers