

# I Peter 4: 1-6 / Part I of II

## Our Proper Attitude in Suffering

THE BELIEVER: HIS DISCIPLINE 3:13-5:11. [C. McCALLEY'S OUTLINE]

A. Suffering for Righteousness 3:13-4:6

The Benefits of Suffering 3:13-17

*A Divine Axiom: A believer zealous for good cannot be hurt 3:13*

The Blessing of Suffering 3:14

The Preparations for Suffering 3:15-17

*The Perfect Example of Undeserved Suffering 3:18-22*

*The Death of Jesus Christ 3:18*

*The Activity of Christ's Spirit While His Body Was in the Grave 3:19-20*

*Baptism Is an Antitype 3:21*

Suffering Always Eventuates in Glory 3:22

**4. The Proper Attitude in Suffering 4:1-6**

Our Study: July 19 & 26, 2020:

A Command to a Right Attitude 4:1

The Purpose of this Right Attitude 4:2

The Reason for this Right Attitude 4:3-6



# I Peter 4: 1-6

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, 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. 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. 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*.

## The Major Theme of this Broad Section We are Studying:

*Suffering Precedes Glory: Christ, our Perfect Example, has been through all of it it, and He is our Resource to get us through . . .*

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# I Peter 4:1-6

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## A BRIEF STUDY ON THE SUBJECT OF SUFFERING:

ADAPTED FROM L.S. CHAFER'S 'SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY'

1. The sufferings of Christ we Infinite. They were from TWO Sources: (1). From God the Father. II Cor 5:21: *'He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf...'* (2.) From Men (I would add to this: Satan, the world system) John 15:18-20a: *"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you;*
2. We **cannot** share in Source No. 1: Christ's suffering from the Father on behalf our our sin
3. We can and do share in Source No. 2.: Mat 10:22-25; Acts 9:15-16; Rom 8:16-18; II Tim 2: 8-13
4. It is a NATURAL phase of the Christian life and experience: *'Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you...'* I Pet 4:12
5. Suffering with Christ here in this sphere- the place that He was Rejected- is the only path into the reward of being glorified together with Him in the Heavenly sphere: *'... and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.'* ROM 8:17
6. It does not mean sharing in His sufferings to *'work out your salvation'; contribute to your salvation or become holy* through suffering...
7. It is for future reward: the effort in suffering now results in a glorious crown given to the faithful because of our partnership in the pre-cross, earthly sufferings of Christ (The Trial Crown/Crown of Life: JAS 1:12; REV 2:10)

# I Peter 4:1-6

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## A BRIEF STUDY ON THE SUBJECT OF SUFFERING:

ADAPTED FROM L.S. CHAFER'S 'SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY'

8. If we share in His sufferings, we shall also share in His glory, and because of our identity with Him here, we will have an identity with Him up there in all His Glory.

*The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.* ROM 8:16-21

9. He left His native place, in the sphere of Glory, and went all the way down to suffer a felon's death

10. We can have Christ's mind in the midst of suffering:

*Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* PHIL 2:5-11

11. This mind of Christ is to be reproduced in us by the power of God: *'for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.'* PHIL 2:13



# I Peter 4:1-6

## AND A FINAL POINT ON THE SUBJECT OF SUFFERING:

ADAPTED FROM: RON MERRYMAN, KENNETH G. WUEST, DR. G. RICHISON

While God the Father poured an infinite amount of suffering on Christ for the Atonement of sin (once and for all); He left Christ's fleshly suffering here on earth incomplete:

- (a). He is not done allowing the Cosmos to pile on suffering directed at Christ
- (b). Because of the limited span of Christ's life (the need to settle atonement at the Cross, resulting in His departure from the planet) - God left the rest to His disciples, to Paul, to us.... As Paul clearly states:
 

***'Now I rejoice! in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions.'*** COL 1:24
- (c). Ministers, then, should have the same positive attitude towards suffering: we feel the same hostility and persecution directed at Christ from the world, that Christ would be suffering if He still was here
- (d). 'Filling up': is ***antanaplēroō*** the supply from the opposite quarter from the deficiency (what is lacking); ***to fill up in turn***
- (e). The Best Analogy: The Ace pitcher is on the mound: he is unhittable and is humiliating the lineup, the team up to bat is suffering in turn, one after another. The supply of batters comes from the opposite quarter (the dugout) to the deficiency (the batter's box at home plate). We are in the batting order after Christ, our **Leadoff Hitter**

# I Peter 4: 1

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

WITH THIS OVERVIEW OF SUFFERING IN MIND: let's look at the beginning of Chapter 4:

- Therefore: is there to tie together, I Peter 3:18's '*For Christ also suffered [unto death] for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;*'
- Christ's Example: He was tempted to the utmost by sin without (but not within): every conceivable adverse power was arrayed against Him, the contradiction of sinners, the power of the devil, the claims of natural relationships, the ignorance of disciples, *[the Pharisees; the Mob; as a baby by King Herod; Pontius Pilate; Judas]* and at last the power of death, all brought to bear upon Christ.... HAMILTON SMITH
- We are to take up **arms** for the same purpose: not the Greek word used light day-armament but heavily-armed foot soldier that is battle-ready. Not with a sword, but with a **pike weapon**.
- What are we to arm ourselves with?
- The Mind of Christ; how is this a weapon?
- We can resist the temptation as He did by putting on: the Lord Jesus Christ- *BUT PUT ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND MAKE NO PROVISION FOR THE FLESH IN REGARD TO ITS LUSTS. [ROM 13:14]: 'For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.'* HEB 2:18
- Bonus Question: What did Christ Jesus arm Himself with? \_\_\_\_\_ Eph 6:17; Mat 4:4

# I Peter 4:1

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**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,**

## **TO CEASE FROM SIN:**

- Is this a Positional Truth or a Conditional/practical living Truth?
- What does it mean? How can we actually cease from sin?
- It is rendered in the Greek: 'have got release' from sin': **pauō**: perfect tense; middle voice; indicative mood; we have got the cease & desist from sin already, it happened to us in the past with continuing results.

**One suffers in refusing to sin; one judges and hates and thwarts the will of flesh, and suffers, but does not sin. If by grace our mind is set on God's will at all cost, sin does not enter. It is suffering in flesh, and therein is separation from sin. And this is the simple normal state of the Christian with the heart resting on Him that went down below all depths for him. When the heart loses sight of Him, one shirks suffering, and the will asserts fleshly activity, and actual sin follows. But we are sanctified by the Spirit to the obedience of Jesus, no less than to the sprinkling of His blood. We are left here to do the will of God, now that we are Christ's. / WM. KELLY**

- My summary of Kelly: we suffer in the flesh by **not sinning**; the normal human course of action is to take the bait from temptation and sin. There is tremendous relief and satisfaction and pleasure in sinning. But to take on the Mind of Christ, and eschew sin, we deprive the flesh, and actual pain and suffering ensue

**(THE RESULTS; OF ABIDING VS. SINNING IN PARENTHESES)**

**START:  
ABIDING  
IN CHRIST**

**THE TEMPTATION PROCESS  
JAMES 1:13-15**

**TEMPTATION  
(NOT SIN)**

**LUSTS – SOURCE IS SIN NATURE**

**DRAWN AWAY**

**RECKON**

**ENTICED – LURED BY BAIT**

**TAKE  
BAIT**

**PREGNANT – LUST  
CONCEIVES**

**BIRTH = SIN**

**SIN CONFESS**

**DEATH**

**FINISH:**

- ABIDING IN SIN NATURE
- DEATH (SEPARATION) = LOSS OF FELLOWSHIP

*(hath got release from sin)* (I Pet 4:1)

**(Suffering in your flesh by refusing to sin)** (I Pet 4:1)

**GOD PROVIDES A WAY OF ESCAPE [I COR 10:13]**

(In the **Will** of God: in His good pleasure)

(Obedient)

(Remaining in Grace)

(being conformed to Christ's Image)

(No longer a slave to sin)

(Dead to sin; alive to God in Christ Jesus)

(A righteous son)

*(The Prodigal son at his Father's banquet)*

(Out of the **Will** of God: (suffering abated) out of favor)

(Disobedient one)

**(Living for the lusts of men)** (I Pet 4:2)

(Gratification = relief for your flesh)

(Dead in trespasses & sins)

**(Fallen** from grace)

*(The Prodigal son mired in the pig pen)*

(A slave to sin)

# I Peter 4:2

Note: the comparison in theme and context to: **ROMANS 6**

**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.

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# I Peter 4:1-2

**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, 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.**

## FINAL THOUGHTS ON VERSES 1 & 2:

- Christ is our Perfect Example of how to endure suffering, both unrighteous suffering from man, and suffering that God appoints us to.
- He is our Advocate through it
- He is going to go through it with us
- He will lead us through it
- We have oneness with Him in sufferings
- He is our Captain / Prince / File Leader of our salvation, made perfect in these sufferings:

**For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings. For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one *Father*; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, HEB 2:10-11**