

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

Old Life / New Life / the Will of God / Coming Judgement

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*.**

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I Peter 4: 1-2

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By Way of Review from Last Week: From Miles Stanford's 'None But the Hungry Heart':

March 30: *Previously Prepared* -

“Let the same disposition be in you which was in Christ Jesus.” “Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh is at rest from sin” (Phil. 2:5, Wey; 1 Pet. 4:1m).

Too late! Too late! If we seek to deal with sin by reckoning at the moment it becomes an issue. Our stand and attitude from the beginning of each day is to be a settled matter as we rest in our risen Lord Jesus: the death of the Cross separates me from the enslavement of sin and self, and I continually abide in my new life, Christ Jesus. My life is “hid with Christ in God” (Col. 3:3).

“The reckoning believer is to meet every proposal of self-gratification armed with the mind to suffer in the flesh. Sin is the gratification of self, but ‘he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from the domination of sin.’

“If you allow yourself to entertain a suggestion of self-gratification—if you consider it, and give it a place in your mind—you are defeated. You have laid aside your armor, and will fall an easy prey to the foe. But there will be no response to the suggestion or temptation if you stand armed with the mind to suffer in the flesh. That which is proposed to you is exactly opposite to what you are set for. It is suggested that you should be pleased and gratified in the very thing in which you are fully minded to suffer. You are now in conflict with sin—not going along with it; you suffer in the flesh, and have ceased from the practice of sin.” -C.A.C.

“So that he can no longer spend the rest of his natural life living by [his] human appetites and desires but [he lives] for what God wills” (1 Pet. 4:2, Amp.).

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A BELIEVER ABIDING IN THE WILL OF GOD VS. NOT ABIDING

I Peter 4:2

In the Will of God: in His good pleasure

Living for the will of God (I Pet 4:2)

Remaining in Grace

A righteous son

Dead to sin; alive to God in Christ Jesus

No longer a slave to sin

Armed to the hilt w/ heavy armament (I Pet 4:1)

The Prodigal son at his Father's banquet

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

being conformed to Christ's Image

Obedient

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

Sharing in Christ's sufferings; rejoicing (I Pet 4:13)

suffering abated by shirking suffering

Disobedient

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

(Gratification = relief for your flesh)

A slave to sin

Dead in trespasses & sins

Fallen from grace

The Prodigal son mired in the pig pen

Out of the Will of God: out of favor

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 4:3

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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.**

ONWARD TO TODAY'S verses, 3, 4, 5 & 6:

“The Sinners Hall of Fame”, verse 3: Those who, by sin, carry out the flesh's will in: *lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries* [KJ version]

- The time is past:** the previous life of a believer, even if as bad as the sins in Verse 3 (most unbelievers lives do not have this kind of excess) IS CLOSED and DONE; our previous life in sin is a CLOSED MATTER. [WUEST] We, along with Peter's believers have died with Christ (Rom 6:8) and are freed from [Rom 6:7] the desire (purpose; will; Gr: *boulema*) to continue to live in them, because we have newness of life [Rom 6:4] *'old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new...'*
- 'Already past' = **parerchomai**: very strong phrase for an end to a thing: *“For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished* [MAT 5:18]
- Is Peter saying: if you haven't lived it up back then; it's too late now?
- Yes, it could be a slightly ironic, humorous dig at the will of the sin nature by Peter...[Wuest; McCalley seem to imply this is the case...]
- Is this not an excellent verse to share with believers who are racked with guilt over their previous life?

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RIOTOUS LIVING:

“The Sinners Hall of Fame”, verse 3: Those who, by sin, carry out the flesh’s will in: *lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries* [KJ version]

Here is a character summation of these sins:

unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness, wantonness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence
desire, craving, longing, desire for what is forbidden, lust overflow of wine, surplus of wine, GUZZLINGS, village
merrymaking, parading, slough, wild, furious and ecstatic religious ceremonies to false gods . . .

CASE STUDY: **THE PRODIGAL SON.** Luke 15:11-32

The son went to a distant land and squandered his inheritance “with loose living” or “riotous living”; he engaged in profligacy: wasteful, amoral, reckless, extravagant behavior, hence the connection to Verse 3.

Note the reaction of his father though, in him returning and offering to just exist as a hired hand in the estate....

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lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries (I Pet 4:3)

The Prodigal son mired in the pig pen

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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.

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I Peter 4:4

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

THE REACTION OF THE SAVED ONE'S FORMER ASSOCIATES:

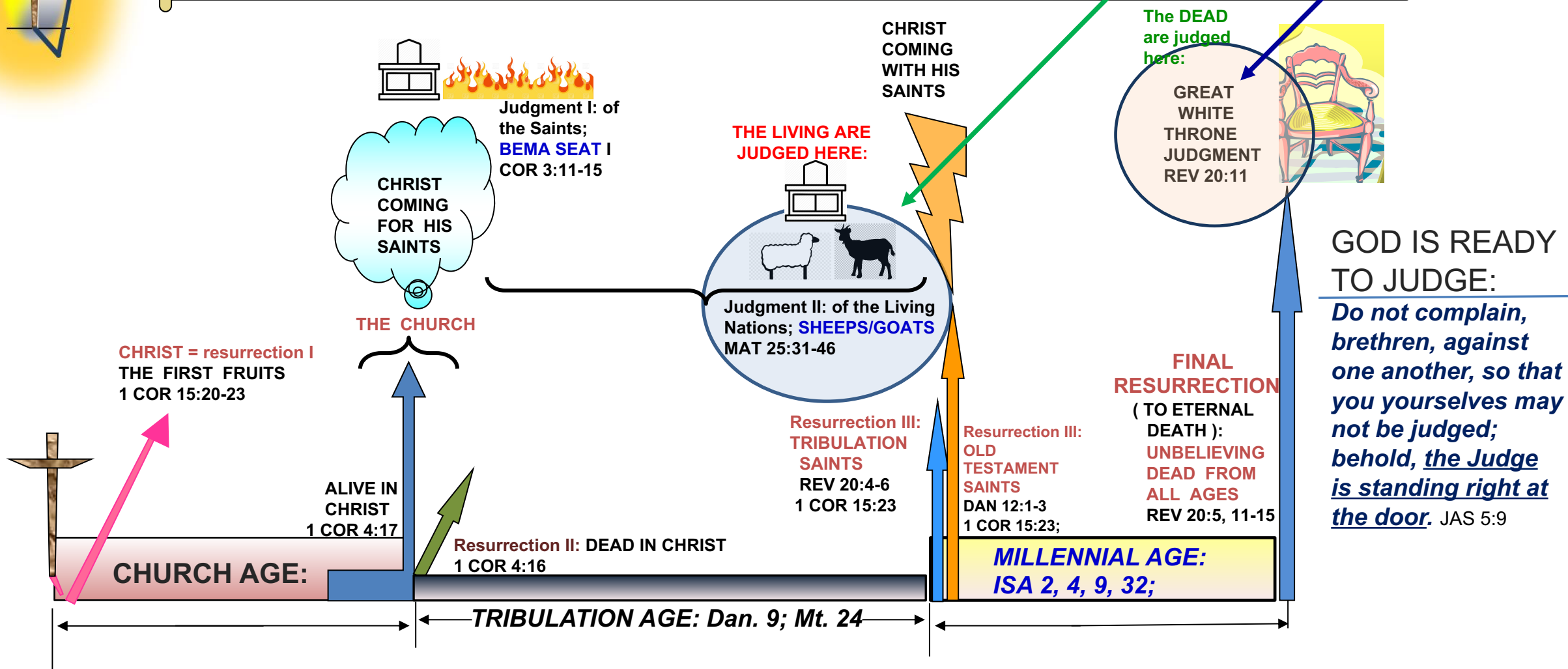
- ❑ KJV: has 'they **think it strange**' that the (now) saved individual does not run with them
- ❑ Not: in thinking it 'odd' or unusual; but rather: *foreign* or *against nature* [WUEST]
- ❑ Their sin natures recognize a foreign anti-body to their revellings and carousing...
- ❑ Then, they seek to malign, falsely accuse you being motivated by some unknown evil . . .
- ❑ Case in Point: **the devil, incapable of appreciating goodness, suggested to God that the piety of Job was not real — that he refrained from evil, not because he hated evil or loved God, but simply because he found it paid to refrain from excesses.** [HAMILTON SMITH]
- ❑ ***'and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame . . .'*** [1 PET 3:16]
- ❑ Note how Peter ties the overarching theme of suffering unjustly to the above's Chap. 3 and to Chap. 4's:
- ❑ ***If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you*** [1 PET 4:14]

I Peter 4:5

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





I Peter 4:6

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 GOSPEL HAS BEEN PREACHED TO ALL PEOPLE OF ALL AGES BEFORE BEING JUDGED BY GOD:

- In the time of Noah: Mat. 24:37,38; Luke 17:27; Peter 3:19-20; 2 Peter 2:5
- By Prophets: 1 Peter 1:10-12
- By Christ, in the Church age, in the tribulation yet future
- “even to those that are dead”**: does not refer to the Judgment of the Dead at the Great White Throne Judgment; rather, the believing saints (who are NOW dead; for they have since died) by various preachers over the course of history
- “judged in the flesh by men”**: not Paul’s use of the term for the Sin Nature/Old Man/Natural man “flesh” but refers to believers who while they were on Earth bodily in flesh and bone- judged by the ones who were accusing them of not running with them anymore (I Pet 4:4), or slanderers/ revilers of their good behavior (I Pet 3:16) Resulting: in undeserved suffering.
- Judgment of man on man’s perverse terms
- When living, they were judged by men as the believers in Peter’s time were, but responding positively to the gospel preached, they persevered, and were able to live under the control and indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and thus fulfil the will of God. . .
- But: God has not and will not forget the unrighteous men who judged these saints (now deceased) and He is ready to judge them; their time is coming: I Peter 4:17