



## "Armed for Suffering" (Part 1)

08081Pe4.1-2(82)

### 1 Peter 4:1-2



**1** Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, **2** for 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 desires of the pagans, while having pursued licentiousness, lusts, drunkenness, partying, drinking binges, and lawless idolatries. **4** In this they are ever surprised that you do not run with [them] into the same flood of debauchery, [and] they

blaspheme [you]. **5** But they will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. **6** [The Gospel] for this purpose has been preached even to the dead that although they are judged according to the flesh as men, they may live by the Spirit according to [the will of] God.

– 1 Peter 4:1-6, As translated from the Greek New Testament by T. Bartolucci.

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The Passage is Also Found on Page 182 of the New Testament Section of the Pew Bibles

#### Introduction:

**"The time for sinning is past, the time for suffering is now, so suffer well"**

#### I. What Does it Mean to be Armed for the Purpose of Suffering? (vv. 1-6)

##### A. We Have Clothed Ourselves With The Attitude of Christ (v 1a)

1. Peter is returning to the thoughts of 3:18 . . .
2. Christ suffered in his "sarx" (σὰρξ) - his "flesh" (or his "body")
3. Some translations have "purpose" but the word is better understood as referring to the \_\_\_\_\_

##### B. We Have Parted Ways With Our Past Life of Sin (v 1b)

1. Different views as to the meaning of "the one who has suffered has ceased from sin"

- a. Some think that this is talking about \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Others think that this is talking about the believer in a metaphorical \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Others maintain that Peter is talking about those \_\_\_\_\_ who have died
- d. This is talking about believers and it relates back to the command that you prepare yourselves for suffering

(1) This is evidence of saving faith!

2. There's nothing that proves and purifies motives like pain does

". . . whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin means 'whoever has suffered for doing right, and has still gone on obeying God in spite of the suffering it involved, has made a clear break with sin.'" [Wayne Grudem]

". . . the Apostle's thought seems to be that such suffering in daily life after Christ's pattern, and by His help, is at once a sign that the sufferer has shaken off the dominion of sin, and is a means of further emancipating him from it." [Alexander Maclaren]

**C. We Are Engaged in the Pursuit of God's Will, Not \_\_\_\_\_ (v 2)**

1. Living the Christian life is all about seeking and doing God's will

"The only growing and thriving life comes through a living contemplation and application of Jesus Christ. You must be constantly studying him and conversing with him and drawing grace from him . . . Do you want great power against sin? Do you desire to increase in holiness? Let your eye be on Christ all the time. Set your heart on him. Let it dwell in him and be still with him. When any kind of sin threatens to prevail, go to Christ, and tell him about the attack and your inability to resist it. Ask him to defeat it. If your heart inclines toward sin, lay this before Christ. His beams of love will eat out the fire of those sinful desires. Do you want your pride, passions, love of the world, and self-love to be killed? Seek the virtue of Christ's death, and it will be so. Seek to imitate his spirit, the spirit of meekness and humility and divine love. Look on Christ, and he will draw your heart toward heaven and unite it to himself and make it like himself. Is this not the one thing you desire?" [Robert Leighton]