

"Armed for Suffering" (Part 5)

The Error of Universalism

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1 Peter 4:6

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.

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

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

Introduction: What is Universalism?

- 1) It is the belief that every single person who ever has lived will be _____ .
- 2) Some common arguments among universalists...
 - a. God wills that all men be saved therefore all men will be saved or God's will is frustrated.
 - b. Christ died for the whole world therefore every person will be saved
 - c. In order for all things to be reconciled to Christ, all people will have to be saved.
 - d. Every knee will bow to Christ which means that every person will bow to him in salvation.
 - e. God's love means that He could never send men to hell for eternity.
 - f. Eternity in hell is unfair for temporal sins.
 - g. A perfect state of righteousness in heaven cannot exist if hell continues for eternity.

I. Common Threads Among False Teachers

- A. Strand # 1: False teachers mimic truth
- B. Strand #2: False Teachers claim that they have the truth that the church has missed for centuries

- C. Strand #3: False teachers often have their own corrected version of the Bible or they demand adherence to a particular translation
- D. Strand #4: False teachers are almost always corrupt in more than one area of their theology
- E. Strand #5: False teachers deny God's Nature and Sovereignty
- F. Strand #6: False teachers ultimately pervert the Gospel

II. A Reformational Response to Universalism

A. A Theological Response to Universalism

- 1. Universalism denies the doctrine of total depravity
 - a. Pelagianism is the belief that men are born inherently good
 - b. Augustine, Pelagius, Zosimus
 - (1) 412 AD the council of Carthage agreed with Augustine against Pelagius
- 2. Universalism denies the doctrine of predestination
 - a. Luke 13; Matthew 22:14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; John 6:37-44; Ephesians 1:3-6; Romans 9:6-24
- 3. Universalism denies the doctrine of perseverance
 - a. Perseverance =
- 4. Universalism denies the doctrine of hell
 - a. Cf. Matthew 7:22-23; 10:28; 13:40-43; 13:47-50 ; 25:31 ff.; Mark 8:35-36; Luke 12:8-10; 16:19ff. (also note Revelation 20:11 ff.)
 - b. The Jewish schools Shammai and Hillel
- 5. Universalism denies the Gospel itself

"If the sinner himself is not obliged by justice to suffer in order to satisfy the law he has violated, then, certainly no one needs suffer for him for this purpose." [WGT Shedd]

B. An Exegetical Response to Universalism

C. A Grammatical Response to Universalism