



## "Armed for Suffering" (Part 7)

### *The Error of Universalism*

10081Pe4.6(88)

### **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.

– 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 and Review \*\* Review of 3:18-20 - "Christ's Suffering and Our Salvation"**

- A. Christ's Victory Came Through Suffering (3:18)
- B. His Suffering Ended With His Death (18a)
- C. His Suffering was Vindicated by His Resurrection (18b)
- D. The Triumph of Christ's Suffering (19-20)
  - 1. Note that it says that He went and preached
    - a. To whom did He go?
    - b. Who are "the spirits in prison?"
      - (1) Angelic beings fall into two basic categories
        - (a) Holy elect angels (1 Tim. 2:4)
        - (b) Evil, fallen angels (demons)

**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)**
- B. We Have Parted Ways With Our Past Life of Sin (v 1b)**
- C. We Are Engaged in the Pursuit of God's Will, Not Our Own (v 2)**
- D. We Know the Season for Sinning is Past (v 3)**
- E. We Walk Out Of Step With the World (v 4a)**
- F. We Endure the Scorn of Men (v 4b-5)**

**G. We Live in the Hope of \_\_\_\_\_ Beyond Death (v 6)**

1. Who are these "dead?" Who is Peter talking about? (three options):

- a. Christian Martyr View:
- b. Second chance at salvation View:
- c. Figurative View:

"Surely to say that 'the gospel was preached also (or, even) to them that are dead' is not to say that it was preached to them when they were dead."  
[Alexander MacLaren]

2. What does it mean that ". . . they are judged according to the flesh as men . . ." ?

3. Saving faith in Christ doesn't mean we escape physical death - It means we escape \_\_\_\_\_ death!

4. Note that this "preaching" is something that occurred in the past

5. How were the adversaries maligning these first century believers?

6. Note the parallel to the Wisdom of Solomon and to 3:18

"But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of Himself; like the gold in the furnace He tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering He accepted them." [Wisdom of Solomon, 3:1-3]

1 Peter 3:18	1 Peter 4:6
For even Christ suffered once for all concerning sin, the just for the unjust, in order to reconcile us to God--He who was put to death in the flesh, but made alive by the Spirit.	For this purpose, [the Gospel] has been preached even to the dead, that though they are judged according to the flesh like men, they may live by the Spirit according to [the will of] God.
Christ was crucified and died a real death; but this wasn't the last word as He was vindicated by being raised by the Spirit	Some believers had already died as all men do; but this isn't the last word as their embracing the Gospel ensures that they too will live by the Holy Spirit.
Real death, but resurrection to life	Real death, but resurrection to life.