
Young Adults

1st Peter 4



Chapter 4

- 1** Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,
- 2** that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.
- 3** For we *have spent* enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.
- 4** In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with *them* in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of *you*.
- 5** They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.
- 6** For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.
- 7** But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.
- 8** And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”
- 9** *Be* hospitable to one another without grumbling.
- 10** As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
- 11** If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, *let him do it* as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- 12** Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;
- 13** but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.
- 14** If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.
- 15** But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters.
- 16** Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.
- 17** For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

Observations

Using a highlighter pen highlight the following in the Biblical text (make the highlight large enough to see):

The word **grace** every time it appears in this section of Scripture.

Note the contrast between the words **flesh** and **spirit**—highlight both.

The word **suffer, suffers, suffering & suffered** every time it appears in this section of Scripture.

18 Now “If the righteous one is scarcely saved,
Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?”

19 Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God
commit their souls *to Him* in doing good, as to a faithful
Creator.

Study Notes:

1) What does it mean that, “he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin?” (vs. 1)

2) What are Christians to live for (vs. 2)? What are **you** living for?

3) How could the end have been “near” almost 2000 years ago (vs. 7)?

4) How near is the end it now? What developments in the world the end of human history is near?

5) In view of how close we are to the end of human history how does Peter say we should live? That is, what should Christians **be doing** and what should they **not be doing** now?

6) In vss. 10-11 Peter tell us that we each have a gift; what is the gift(s) that God has given you? How are you using that gift and/or developing that gift? (Compare with Romans 12:3-8; 1Cor. 12:1-11 & Eph. 4:7-12).

7) Which of the essential doctrines of the Christian faith is supported by vs. 5? (Remember to use the list on the last page).

The list of essential* Christian doctrines that emerge from the early creeds and councils includes:

- (1) Human depravity
- (2) Christ's virgin birth
- (3) Christ's sinlessness
- (4) Christ's deity
- (5) Christ's humanity
- (6) God's unity
- (7) God's triunity
- (8) The necessity of God's grace
- (9) The necessity of faith
- (10) Christ's atoning death
- (11) Christ's bodily resurrection
- (12) Christ's bodily ascension
- (13) Christ's present high priestly service
- (14) Christ second coming, final judgment (heaven and hell), and reign.

*These doctrines define the historic evangelical Christian faith. To reject or deny any of these is to move from orthodoxy to heresy. Do some research on the **World Mission Society Church of God** and list below the doctrines that they deny.