

The First Letter of St.
Peter
Chapter 4

1

Living for God – 4:1-11

- 1 – “Therefore” – goes back to 3:18: “Christ died for sins . . . To bring you to God.” Because of Christ we have been set on a whole new path of life. We should “arm ourselves” with the attitude of Christ, rejecting the sinful way of life.
- 2 – Because Christ suffered in His body, he no longer lives according to the flesh.
- 3 – The catalog of sins is a reflection of the life of death from which Christ’s death has saved us.

2

Living for God – 4:1-11

- 4 – The pagans ridicule the Christian for not living the same kind of life they live.
- 5 – Don’t envy them. Their day of reckoning is coming.
- 6 - This verse does not mean that the Gospel is preached to dead people, it rather is saying that the Gospel was preached to people who were alive but are now dead, in the hopes that they might be alive to God in Christ.

3

Living for God – 4:1-11

- 7 – The end is coming, so live clear-minded, self-controlled lives, free from sin. In this way we will be able to pray for things that are truly beneficial for others and for ourselves.
- 8 – A life lived for Christ is a life lived for others.
- 9 - “Hospitality” is literally translated, “love of strangers.” We do so without grumbling.
- 10 – This is stewardship: What is the purpose of our life if not to use the gifts God has given us to serve others.
- 11 - Whoever does the speaking or serving should do so knowing that they are speaking and serving on behalf of God.

4

Suffering for Being a Christian – 4:12-19

- 12 – The Christians Peter was writing to were suffering in some way. He tells them not to be surprised if they suffer.
- 13 – Rather they should rejoice that they are participating in the suffering of Christ. Suffering as a Christian is a way to bear the cross of Christ.
- 14 – If we are insulted “because of the name of Christ” we should consider it a blessing.
- 15-16 – If we suffer, be sure it is not because you broke the law, but because you are living out your faith.

5

Suffering for Being a Christian – 4:12-19

- 18 – “Hard for the righteous to be saved” (NIV) -- “If the righteous is scarcely saved” (ESV). Not that salvation is difficult to attain – it is a gift! – but rather that living the life of the saved can be extremely difficult, and the fact that we end up in heaven is only by the grace of God. Well, what then will it be like for those who don’t have Christ?
- 19 - Suffering marks us as a child of God, and we should, therefore, commit ourselves to God and continue to live the life He has called us to live, even if it produces hardship.

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