

1 Peter 3:8-4:19 Living with Hostility

Discuss

- *Have you ever offended or annoyed people because you refused to do something which you thought was wrong?*

1 Peter 3:8-17

Living Godly Lives in a Pagan Society

Suffering for Doing Good

⁸ Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. ⁹ Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

¹⁰ For,

“Whoever would love life
and see good days
must keep their tongue from evil
and their lips from deceitful speech.

¹¹ They must turn from evil and do good;
they must seek peace and pursue it.

¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer,
but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” ¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷ For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

What does behaving like this lead to (v9-10)?

- *What could Peter mean when he says the pagans may “glorify God on the day he visits us”?*

Explore more

Peter is quoting here from Psalm 34:12-16.

Psalm 34

Of David. When he pretended to be insane before Abimelek.

- ¹ I will extol the Lord at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips.
- ² I will glory in the Lord;
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.
- ³ Glorify the Lord with me;
let us exalt his name together.
- ⁴ I sought the Lord, and he answered me;
he delivered me from all my fears.
- ⁵ Those who look to him are radiant;
their faces are never covered with shame.
- ⁶ This poor man called, and the Lord heard him;
he saved him out of all his troubles.
- ⁷ The angel of the Lord encamps around those
who fear him, and he delivers them.
- ⁸ Taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.
- ⁹ Fear the Lord, you his holy people,
for those who fear him lack nothing.
- ¹⁰ The lions may grow weak and hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.
- ¹¹ Come, my children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
- ¹² Whoever of you loves life
and desires to see many good days,
- ¹³ keep your tongue from evil

and your lips from telling lies.

¹⁴ Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.

¹⁵ The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are attentive to their cry;

¹⁶ but the face of the Lord is against those who
do evil, to blot out their name from the earth.

¹⁷ The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;
he delivers them from all their troubles.

¹⁸ The Lord is close to the broken-hearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

¹⁹ The righteous person may have many troubles,
but the Lord delivers him from them all;

²⁰ he protects all his bones,
not one of them will be broken.

²¹ Evil will slay the wicked;
the foes of the righteous will be condemned.

²² The Lord will rescue his servants; no one who
takes refuge in him will be condemned.

- *What does God do for His people (v4, 7, 17, 19)?
What kind of experiences are God's people facing?*
- *What do God's people do(v4, 6, 17)? How does the
experience of God's people in Psalm 34 reinforce
Peter's message?*
- *What should we be ready and be prepared to do
(v13-17)?*
- *Naturally we should be scared of suffering or
speaking for Christ (v 14). What does Peter say we
should do?*



1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹ After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits - ²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

- *Peter starts this section "For...". He is telling us the reason we can confidently suffer and speak for Jesus.*
- *What great fact Does Peter reminders of in v18?*
- *Why will this encourage us to make Jesus our Lord, the most important thing in our lives?*
- *How does this enable and inspire us to suffer for Him?*

Peter points his readers back to their baptism (v21) as a reminder to us that;

- Baptism, as we go under the water and return out of it, is a picture of Christ Jesus' resurrection which saves us (v21).
- In baptism we align our moral compass to God



Explore more

Verses 19 to 22 are complicated! Peter seems to be using the example of Noah to support the argument is making.

When Noah was alive, God through His Spirit preached to the people alive then through Noah. But the people disobeyed by rejecting Noah and his message. In Noah's day not many were saved (v20); those that were, were saved through water.

Peters says that his readers experience is similar to those eight people in Noah's time (Genesis 7:11-23). The Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead has preached about his death to people. Many have rejected Jesus and of persecuting his followers; but these early Christians have listened and been "saved through water": The water of their baptism (v21).

- *How does this support Peter's instruction to continue to do good in the face of suffering?*

Explore more

One of the big themes of 1 Peter is that what we believe affects how we live.

- *So when suffering or challenge comes What truths do we need to recall?*



Explore more

Do you expect to experienced opposition and suffering as a normal part of your Christian life? If not, why not? What can you do to prepare yourself and others for persecution? Do you need to get better prepared to answer people who ask you why you live differently, or why you treat Jesus as your Lord. Do you need to work hard at

answering with gentleness and respect (v15) when they ask?



Explore more

1 Peter 4:1-19

¹ Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. ² As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. ³ For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. ⁴ They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. ⁵ But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶ For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to human standards in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.

⁷ The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. ⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do

so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And,

"If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

¹⁹ So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

Peter is still thinking about the great truth of 3:18 here. Because Jesus has died for our sins we are to be dead to sinful living even when this brings us suffering (4:1-2) Because Christ suffered for us, We can be joyful and count it a privilege when we suffer for Him (v12-13). Of cross is the model for Christian living.

What do Christians know lies in the future?

What difference will this make in the present?

Why will living like this be hard to maintain (v4)?

Look back at one 1:5. What do Christians know will happen "at the end of all things" (4:7)?

What difference will this make in the present (4:7-11)?



Look at v:12-16. What reasons does Peter give that Christians can rejoice in suffering?

Verse 17 refers to Malachi 3 "Family of God" (1 Peter 4:17) is literally "House of God" – a common expression for God's Temple. But now we are the house of God, to which God comes (2:5). In Malachi 3, God's judgement is like a refiners fire that purifies God's people. God still uses suffering to refine and prove His people genuine (1:6-7)

