

(1) Since, therefore, Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking. For whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

(3) *For the time that is past* suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do --- living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. --- With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery --- and they malign you! But they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead

(6) For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.

(7) The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be self-controlled and sober-minded --- for the sake of your prayers! Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins!

Think on these things:

- 1) Recall that 1 Peter was written when Christians were being persecuted because --- they were Christians! Here in verse 1, Peter reminds them how to approach this difficulty in life. What is the key to facing these trials successfully? Can you recall, and share, a time when you felt you were the object of derision or rejection because you were recognized by your faith in God?

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- 2) What does v.2 say should be the outcome for anyone who actually suffers physically because of his/her faith?

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- 3) Do you have a past, that is, something you're not sure you want your Christian friends or family to know about? (You don't have to answer this.) Peter says Gentiles (non-believers), live today like many of us believers use to live before being saved. What explicit, self-serving activities does Peter identify as common among non-believers due to their sensuality and passions?

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- 4) What does v.4 say is their reaction when we "stop" joining them in these activities? This initial reaction then morphs into a changed way they treat and speak with and about us. What can we expect from people with whom we used to do these things?

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- 5) According to v.5, do these former friends and others like them get “the last word?” What is the accountability demanded of them?

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- 6) V.6 could be confusing and misinterpreted. In context with 1 Peter, the “dead” would be those persecuted for their faith and died from the persecution. It is not about sharing the Gospel with dead people in general, or trying to save our dead, lost family members. The Salvation message is only for the living! Now that those of faith were “judged” in the flesh as people do, how do they live “after death?”

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- 7) According to v.7, what should be a sobering thought to all of us that leads to self-controlled living these days? How does this affect you? See also 2 Peter 3:8-11.

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- 8) If we show “self-restraint” in how we live now, what benefit do we receive as believers (v.7)?

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- 9) There is a singularly GREAT truth in v.8! It will impact your life tremendously if you embrace it. Whether family or “church” family, what is the “power” of genuine love? How do you understand “love covers a multitude of sins?”

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People and situations I want to pray for this week: