

CMBC Bible Study



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1 Peter 4:1-19

1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; 2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. 3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: 4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: 5 Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. 6 For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that 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: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. 8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. 9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging. 10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. 12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. 14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. 16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. 17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? 18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? 19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

"The Christian attitude and character in suffering"

V 1-3 Peter is challenging the believers to consider the suffering of Christ to shape and mold our new life. Why does Peter focus so much on suffering, and why should we? Consider also V12-16.

What is the example that believers can follow when it comes to Jesus "suffering in the flesh"?
What does Peter mean by "suffering in the flesh"?

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What does Peter mean by "...he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin"?

Coming into a relationship with Jesus Christ leads to a noticeable life change. What changes have you noticed since you began living for the will of God and not for evil desires?

V 4-5 Peter notes that our Christian life change may cause difficulty with those who knew us prior to our salvation. What should be the believer's attitude and character towards them that oppose our faith in Christ?

Which is worse: Being slandered by the ungodly or judged by God? Why does Peter make the observation that God will judge the living and the dead?

V 6 Peter says, "*For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead...*" Who are these that are dead, and who preached the gospel to them? How does this fit – or not – in our doctrinal belief/practice and why? Give biblical basis for your argument.

V 7-11 Peter talks about some keys to having good relationship with others, especially in the Church. Discuss practical ways that we can make these verses alive in our relationship to one another at CMBC.

In what way does "charity" cover the multitude of sin? Is there a relationship in your life right now that would benefit from practicing this command?

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How does grudging damage hospitality? Give examples of such grudging.

V 17-19 What is the significance of “...*the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God*”? Why does Peter give this reminder to the saints?

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.”