

Flag Branch Missionary Baptist Church
Baptist Training Union

“1st and 2nd Peter and Jude”

Called To Live For God

Study Seven: Living For God – 1 Peter 4:1-19

1. Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,
2. So as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.
3. For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.
4. In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you;
5. But they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.
6. For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.
7. The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.
8. Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.
9. Be hospitable to one another without complaint.
10. As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
11. Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
12. Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;
13. But to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.
14. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.
15. Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;
16. But if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.
17. For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?
18. And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner?
19. Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

Discussion

- A. The willingness to suffer for something or someone indicates its importance. What about Christ does Peter say to “arm” ourselves with? How will that lead to cessation of sin? ver. 1-2.
- B. What does Peter say enough time has been spent doing? How important is “having enough” in doing and completing God’s will? ver. 3.
- C. What response can you expect from those who participated with you and knew you in your previous lifestyle? What will become of them? ver. 4-5.
- D. As the end draws near, what are some things Peter says to do in fulfilling God’s will? ver. 7-9
- E. What are we to do with “special” or “spiritual” gifts? ver. 10.
- F. How should we regard or recognize what we are able to do in fulfilling God’s will? ver. 11.
- G. How would you describe what Peter means by “fiery ordeals”? What should our response be if and when we encounter them? ver. 12-13.
- H. What consolation can we take if we are mistreated for the name or cause of Christ? – ver. 14
- I. What kind of suffering should be avoided and what kind should be embraced? – ver. 15-16.
- J. Who is God’s judgement going to begin with? Why do you believe God is going to start there? How should we feel about where God’s judgement goes next? – ver. 17.
- K. What does Peter say about the salvation of the righteous? To what do you think he is referring? How does he contrast or compare that with the ungodly? – ver. 18.
- L. What does the suffering of those who suffer to fulfill the will of God say about why they are doing so? ver. 19.