

1 Peter

Chapter Four

FAITH COMES BY HEARING: Read Chapter Four

SUMMARY: Verses 1-19

1. Peter exhorts us to RESOLVE to no longer live on this planet for human desires. Rather, like Jesus who suffered on our behalf we are to live our lives to fulfill the will of God.
2. Peter assumes that every believer should be FINISHED WITH SIN. Sin should have to part or role any longer to those who believe in Jesus.
3. Peter gives a list of pagan behaviors. He then exhorts that we should not live as pagans do. God will judge the behavior and actions of the ungodly. Even though unbelievers pressure you NEVER give in to ungodly living.
4. God will judge. Judgment is in His nature. It's why Jesus died for us in order that God's judgment may not result in my life.
5. If we follow Christ now in this realm we are not judged when we die. Men may judge us while we live but God will judge us when we die.
6. Prayer is to play a vital role as you are living out this earthly, fleshly life. You are to take life seriously and live disciplined. The life of Jesus is to manifest itself in all you do. Your life should serve others and show love to others.
7. Peter exhorts to never get discouraged when you suffer at the hands of other humans - unbelievers or believers.
8. God judges His people and those who are not His people. He judges both. He judges His body - the church and those who are unbelievers. Suffering that comes upon the Christian via unbelievers is viewed by Peter as a suffering that produces a cleansing effect in the body of Christ. Suffering marks out those of true faith.
9. The ungodly and the sinner are judged by God based upon the gospel message they have disobeyed. The Christian is judged by the world upon the gospel message they have obeyed.
10. Suffering at the hands and taunts of the ungodly should not discourage you. God will keep you and give you strength to remain faithful.

REFLECTION

1. What verse stuck out to you most?
2. Why are human desires so antagonistic towards the will of God?
3. Why do you think Peter focuses so much on being DONE with sin and living a lifestyle of godly behavior?
4. Why is prayer considered by Peter as playing such a vital role? Do you think he may have been thinking back to the time when he slept in the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus asked Him to watch and pray?
5. Why is it that Christians struggle so much with persecution from unbelievers? Why do you think Peter reckons this outside humanistic persecution as suffering?
6. How does suffering as a Christian, that which is brought on you through the actions of others, have such a cleansing effect?

APPLICATION

1. Do you find your desires conflicting with God's will? How do you typically handle such?
2. How can you make your prayer life more of a vital part of your Christian faith?
3. Do you struggle when you suffer at the hands of those who aren't godly? How does suffering brought on you from others affect you?
4. How would persecution and suffering be considered as avenues to prove the genuineness of your faith?

