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November 15, 2020

1 Peter 4

**1Forasmuch 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;**

We are told that Christ suffered for us in the flesh; the beating and crucifixion are a major part of that suffering. But He was also subject to ridicule and false allegations by the religious leaders and Jewish participants as part of His suffering.

He tells us to arm ourselves;

***Ephesians 6: 10Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:***

The reference in vs 1 is that we are to be of the same Mind as Christ. That is why in Chapter 3 God told a married couple to be of one mind. Marriage just like the Church big C has to be of a single mind, and that mind has to have Jesus as its head just like the Church has Jesus as its head.

Jesus's Mind was always under the authority of God, not because He was God's Son but because He determined to walk in obedience to God. That is what He is telling us to do. The armor of God described is useless to us if our minds are not Christ Centered in our marriages as in our lives in general.

The driver of the mind is the Heart, if we can fill the heart with Faith, Love, Mercy and Grace then we are in alignment with God's Will. That is what Jesus did and that is what He wants us to do. The mind must be controlled by the Heart submitted to God.

**2That he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.**

Our minds have the ability to be trained IF left untrained our minds will conjure up all kinds of evil. The trainer of our mind is our heart and whatever we allow our heart to have allegiance to will be where our mental allegiance will be. God tell us we can only serve one master;

***Luke 16:13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.***

There are no free agents in this life, we all serve one of two masters; Jesus or Satan.

Here are the two choices

- 1. the flesh to the lusts of men**
- 2. the will of God**

***Joshua 24: And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.***

In the next few verses God starts with a statement directed to what appears to be the Believing Jews and cast an aspersion on the Gentiles. In fact, the message is to all believers present whether Jew or Gentile.

The meaning of laying this at the feet of the Gentiles for all the actions listed below is that the Gentiles meaning all the non-Jewish humans had no law to follow. They followed after the flesh; on the other hands the Jews had a Law to follow; a God to follow and a reason to follow the Law and God, even though they failed. They were enticed through dealings with the non-Jewish

nations the “gentiles” and so God lays at the feet of the non-Jews, the “gentiles” these specific allegations. This same allegation can be made about those who claim to be Believers and are enticed by the world even today and follow after the world instead of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**3For 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:**

The initial list includes;

### **Lasciviousness**

From Strong’s Concordance in Greek

“Phonetic Spelling: (as-elg'-i-a)

Definition: licentiousness, wantonness

Usage: (outrageous conduct, conduct shocking to public decency, a wanton violence), wantonness, lewdness.”

### **Lusts**

From Strong’s Concordance Word helps; Greek

“**Cognate: 1939** *epithymía* (from [1909](#) /*epí*, "focused on" and [2372](#) /*thymós*, "passionate desire") – properly, *passion* built on strong feelings (urges). These can be positive or negative, depending on whether the desire is *inspired by faith* (God's in birthed *persuasion*). [See 1937](#) (*epithymeō*).”

## **Excess of wine**

From Strong's Concordance; Greek

“Transliteration: oinophlugia

Phonetic Spelling: (oy-nof-loog-ee'-ah)

Definition: drunkenness, debauchery

Usage: drunkenness, debauchery.”

## **Revellings**

From Strong's Concordance; Greek

“Transliteration: potos

Phonetic Spelling: (pot'-os)

Definition: a drinking bout

Usage: a drinking, carousing.”

## **Banquetings**

From Strong's Concordance Word Help; Greek

“**2970** *kómos* (originally, village-merrymaking that took place at the gathering of the grapes, Souter) – a riotous party (drunken feast) which hosted unbridled sexual immorality; hence, *revelings* (debauched "partying").”

## **Abominable idolatries**

From Strong's Concordance; Greek

“Transliteration: athemitos

Phonetic Spelling: (ath-em'-ee-tos)

Definition: lawless

Usage: illegal, unlawful, criminal, lawless”

“Idoltries Greek

Transliteration: eidólolatria

Phonetic Spelling: (i-do-lol-at-ri'-ah)

Definition: image worship

Usage: service (worship) of an image (an idol).”

**4Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with *them* to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:**

There are several phases of Anti-Christian actions; the first is this idea of the world ***“thinking it is strange that ye run not with them.”***

Once the world has the idea that you do not partake with them in this wanton sin they then start;

***“speaking evil of you”.***

The final phase after speaking evil of you is an all-out assault on you and your walk with Christ.

**5Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. 6For 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.**

The obvious idea here is that we will stand for judgement; there are two categories for judgement; only Two.

The “quick” From Strong’s Concordance, Word helps; Greek

“**Cognate: 2198** *záō* – to live, experience God's gift of life. [See 2222](#) (*zōē*).”

The second category is the “dead”. From Strong’s Concordance, Word helps; Greek

“**3498** *nekrós* (an adjective, derived from *nekys*, "a corpse, a dead body") – dead; literally, "what lacks life"; dead; (figuratively) not able to respond to impulses, or perform functions ("unable, ineffective, dead, powerless," *L & N*, 1, 74.28); unresponsive to life-giving influences (opportunities); inoperative to the things of God.”

*Vs 5: [5](#)Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.*

It is not a question it is a statement of fact; in that an account will be given by both but the judgements are as far apart as they could possibly be. Judgement of the “quick”, those spiritually alive is the Bema Seat judgement of Christ to the Believer. It is more of a rewards ceremony as it is a judgement.

*2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

*James 3: [1](#)My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. [2](#)For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. [3](#)Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. [4](#)Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very*

*small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. [5](#)Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! [6](#)And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. [7](#)For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: [8](#)But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. [9](#)Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. [10](#)Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. [11](#)Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? [12](#)Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.*

In order to walk in obedience to God we have got to control our mouths. The point is that many Christians talk as the world talks, cursing and swearing with the same mouth that we bless and praise God with.

An old saying to someone who has a foul mouth is; “Do you kiss you mother with that mouth?” The point is the same with God do we really praise God with the same mouth we so easily curse with.

This other judgement takes place at the ominous Great White Throne Judgement of God at the end of Tribulation and is the

judgement of the “spiritually dead” those who have rejected Christ and the Free Gift that He is offering.

**7But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.**

The end of things is reference to an end to all that we know on this earth. That Human or Flesh knowledge of the world in will end.

*1 Corinthians 13: 8Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. 11When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. 13And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.*

As one teacher put it; we operate on 5 senses here, we use only 10% of our brain power on a good day. Imagine what would be possible if we used all the brain power that God endowed each human with? Imagine in Heaven God releasing the remainder of our brain power; where will that lead to? The Bible does not tell us, but we have seen an example by Jesus in His resurrected body; moving through time and space unincumbered; is that part of that unused brain capacity that we will all experience when the

Body and Spirit are reunited in the Resurrected Body at Jesus' calling? It is all speculation other than what we can understand what Jesus did as the "First Resurrection".

We are given a simple response to all of this;

*be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.*

**8And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.**

"Charity" in the Greek is actually "love"; a special kind of love. There are four types of love within the Greek language used in the Bible. From Strong's Concordance; love

1. *Eros*: romantic, or sexual love
2. *Philia*: authentic friendship type of love
3. *Storge*: familial love, love with a family
4. *Agápe*: God's love

"Transliteration: agapé

Phonetic Spelling: (ag-ah'-pay)

Definition: love, goodwill

Usage: love, benevolence, good will, esteem; plural: love-feasts."

**9Use hospitality one to another without grudging.**

Hospitality to some comes naturally, to others it is a command that is challenging and requires effort. In either case it is not a suggestion it is a command from God that we are "hospitable".

From Strong's Concordance;

“Transliteration: philoxenos

Phonetic Spelling: (fil-ox'-en-os)

Definition: loving strangers

Usage: hospitable, loving strangers.”

**Q.** At the end of verse 9 it says that hospitality is to be shown how? “**without grudging**”

“Transliteration: goggusmos

Phonetic Spelling: (gong-goos-mos')

Definition: a muttering, murmuring

Usage: murmuring, grumbling.”

With those of us who suffer from this affliction of grumbling or complaining about showing “hospitality without complaining”, why would I want to work on that?

***Hebrews 13:12 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.***

Perhaps you still think it is a suggestion on how to treat strangers;

**[Leviticus 19:34](#)**

***But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.***

But we are not under the Law we are under Grace? We recently studied the term “living sacrifices” with the idea of understanding

what that means. Let's see if Paul in a letter to the Romans might explain what God's position is on Law verses Grace for us.

**Roman 12: [1](#)I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. [2](#)And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

**[3](#)For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. [4](#)For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: [5](#)So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. [6](#)Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; [7](#)Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; [8](#)Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.**

**Love, Zeal, Hope, Hospitality**

**([John 13:31-35](#); [1 John 3:11-24](#))**

**[9](#)Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. [10](#)Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; [11](#)Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; [12](#)Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; [13](#)Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.**

What did God speak to the Apostle John about this issue of love, hospitality and obedience to the commandments of Christ?

**1 John 3:23** *And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. 24* **And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.**

Even though hospitality is listed as one of the gifts of the Spirit we are all capable of showing love to strangers thereby embracing the idea that Jesus gave to us to be hospitable for a lot of reasons, not the least of which was a commandment from Him. I would suggest to us that the default position we should all take is found in John 14.

**John 14:15** *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

**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.**

Believers are all members fitted together of the Church big C, the Body of Christ, His Bride whom He has purified and anointed to reside in eternity with Him.

## Suffering as Christians

**12Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:**

Within Christendom the discussion continues; will we endure “fiery trials” as Christians today or will the Lord return and take us home before the real “fiery trials” begin? God is telling us to be prepared; don’t think it is strange that we endure any “fiery trial”. Does that mean we will go into Tribulation? Again, we have discussed this at great lengths and the bottom line is, we do not know for certain. All of us in this room believe we will be Raptured before Tribulation starts and I still believe that. But we have to study God’s Word as written not as we wished it was written.

God is simply telling us “not to think it strange” that we are confronted with “fiery trials”. In other words, be prepared for some unpleasant events in the flesh. He does not end it there however;

**13But 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.**

While others may dismay at an unpleasant event “fiery trial” we can rejoice. Perhaps a better understanding of what a “fiery trial” is would help.

Strong's Concordance says this;

Transliteration: purósis

Phonetic Spelling: (poo'-ro-sis)

Definition: a burning, a refining

Usage: a burning, trial, fiery test.

The idea God is trying to impart is that these events that are so uncomfortable in the flesh are meant to refine us in Spirit. It is by walking up a hill that you gain strength in your legs not by walking down the hill. God is preparing us for eternity during this very brief time on earth.

Referring back for a moment to consider what is the point of this refining fire if it is really directed at the Spirit within us. As we consider what has to be; in other words is there something to be gained for eternity to endure a fiery trial here on this earth. Does God need us to understand something beyond what the flesh may endure to be embedded for some reason into our spirits that will live in eternity along with our resurrected bodies? He speaks of a joy that comes from being persecuted in Jesus Name. Perhaps it is this "Joy" that is enduring and if we can embrace "joy" while being persecuted it has some long lasting effect in our Spiritual life.

**14If 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.

If you are rebuked for your belief in Christ, then glad we should be for the Glory of God “resteth” upon you. As we studied earlier if we are punished for violating man’s laws or committing sin against God’s laws then that is on our own heads, we deserve punishment. But if we walk in innocents of man’s law and of God’s Law then if we are rebuked, we should take joy in that rebuke.

**16**Yet if *any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.*

To suffer even unto death as a Christian is to Glorify God and our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us, as Christians we have died in our flesh for Him giving ourselves over to Him to walk in His Will to His Glory. Do we fail in that walk, of course we do but we REPENT and He is faithful to forgive us of our sins! To be persecuted for His sake is to be a badge of honor and Glory to Jesus.

*Matthew 5: **11**Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. **12**Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*

There is a dread that is to fall on the House of God? It is a purifying fire that refines the Church and the result of that refining fire is more precious than Gold.

What man has proclaimed daring to speak as the representative of God on earth is in many cases a lie. Man-made churches have taken on the role that was not theirs to have; the Church, the Body of Christ belongs to Jesus and Him alone. It is not made of buildings and corporations it does not have headquarters and issue proclamations that things that God has said are evil are now to be considered good. The Church that Jesus created exists today outside the bounds and controls of man, it is beyond my control and yours and I am thankful for that.

We may as members of the Church that Jesus built have no vote in how things will go, we will not attend meetings to determine the color of the carpet in His heavenly sanctuary, nor discuss how we will pave the parking lot or build a new building. No, we will sit at the feet of the Lord and obey His commands. If we are punished for our obedience to Jesus, then we will be filled with Joy.

If on the other hand we have joined ourselves to man-made churches that have deceived those who attend and embraced evil

as some have done, then their chastisement by God is deserved and there will be no joy. This is not to say that all man-made churches are enemies of God but there certainly are some. Be very careful in whom you chose to fellowship. If they teach another gospel than the one given to us by God then flee.

**17For 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? 18And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? 19Wherefore 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.**

*Hebrews 3:6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.*

What possible could we have to fear with Jesus as our Christ and His Church as our abode.

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