2Thess #165;

Separate from those who enjoy the sins of this world.

Open today in 1Peter chapter 4 RF.

Let us put Barbra M on our prayer list, she is the mother of Bobby C in RI. She has a few health issues and Bobby looks after his mom, so please keep Bobby and his family in prayer.

What many Bels struggle with is separating from groups of friends, or acquaintances they once had worldly fellowship with.

Yet I tell you as a matter of fact, the more you truly grow in the plan of GOD, the less you want to intermingle with worldly people you once were very intimate with.

The reality is, if you are around someone who always makes you rebound and consistently drags you away from your commitment to Christ, that is a signal that you should not ignore.

/Jer 15:17 **I did not sit in a circle of revelers** (*śāḥaq*)**and celebrate**. Because of Your hand *upon me* **I sat alone**, For You filled me with indignation.

Those who scoff and joke about God, they party and play consistently. They insult the one you love, this brings the indignation.\

SHA-HACK, the word was used for an ancient term called - MERRYMAKERS, those who live for the party.

It is written in PieL stem - which is also used for those who scorn or make lite of God and scoff at those who live a godly life.

This brings a righteous indignation upon a true Christian. It doesn’t mean a fit of rage or explosive behaviors toward these people.

It does mean you feel that personal pang of indignation because they attack or mock the GOD you love.

King Solomon brought forth great teaching on wisdom from his father David, as well as outside sources he had studied from;

/Prov 1:10 My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent.

 (Prov 1:10-17)

Prov 1:15 My son, do not walk on the way with them. Keep your feet from their path,\

Separation from the fast crowd, or what some call the superficial social life and apostate party Christians, is a natural disengagement over time.

If you have been born again and saved for over ten years and you still feel connected, around a group of people who have no respect for the WORD of God, your Christian Walk may be in jeopardy.

This is between you and GOD. But if people mocking the word of God and living completely opposed to the truth of scripture, does not raise a red flag within your soul structure. Perhaps you need to reevaluate your relationship with God?

 REPEAT

Now in 1Peter 4 we can note this is written few years before Peter would be executed.

The Apostle Peter spent the last ten years of his life in Rome. This letter was sent out too many Christian groups scattered across the land.

Christians at this time were still a growing movement, yet it was frowned upon in many regions.

Local authorities and even citizens of certain cities or countries would verbally or physically attack Christians.

The true theme of this first letter points to the grace plan of God the Father. Contrary to human viewpoint all suffering is not about discipline or bad luck – many times it points to the grace of God.

Out of God’s overflowing grace we can suffer for blessings or have a curse turned into a blessing. REPEAT

 /1Pet 4:1 Therefore, since **Christ has suffered in the flesh**, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because **the one who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin**,

Jesus (humanity) died in the flesh while HIS deity paid the price for the sins of the world (spiritual death). HIS impeccable life, nature and person teaches us undeserved suffering is something we have to identify with.\

We will never suffer the way TLJC did, but HE is our example and that is what the Apostle Peter is highlighting.

This is not a verse for sinless perfection, yet it does show us we should want to live a life in HIS nature more so than our OSN.

Suffering in many forms happens to both Unbels and Bels – yet as Bels we have the grace plan of GOD which turns suffering in our favor.

 REPEAT

Sadly, this is one of a handful of scriptures the RCC uses for not only works programs, fleshly atonement - but the doctrine of purgatory – cleansing and suffering for your sins.

This was written to tell the Bel that suffering will occur, yet we can have all suffering work in our favor.

/1Pet 4:1 *(also in the same manner) – the one who has suffered in the flesh should cease (pauō) from sin –*

Meaning a pause, to stop or refrain from sin. The new nature inside of you ensures sin no longer reigns in your soul. All Christians in fellowship with positive motivation (BD) have suffering turned into a blessing.\

POW-OLE, to restrain, to release, to bring to an end. This verb is in the perfect tense – it was already complete and it should remain that way.

The indictive mood means it has occurred or will occur – matter of fact.

This is a call to identify with Christ.

Your new nature is from Christ, in this temporal world, it is the only force which stops the OSN in its tracks – it is a NEW nature that can not sin.

You have to make a decision to restrain it or remove it – to pause that OSN.

PUT ON THE NEW – TAKE OFF THE OLD.

All suffering for a serious Christian can be used as an opportunity for blessing – it is a time of growth, it is a time of application, it is a time to become a spiritual warrior, possibly an invisible hero. REPEAT

It is a time of accelerated growth, to suffer and bring glory to GOD!

[1Pe 4:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1pe/4/2/s_1155002) so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human lusts, but for the will of God.

Verse one directs us right into verse two-

They are part of the same thought and same sentence. The Apostle Peter wants us to identify with TLJC and be prepared to remove the flesh and walk inside the plan of GOD.

/[1Pe 4:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1pe/4/3/s_1155003) For **the time already past is sufficient *for you* to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles**, having pursued a course of indecent behavior, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties, and wanton idolatries.

There comes a time when the Bel has realized - through growth, they no longer have anything in common with those who live for the cosmic system.\

After a period of spiritual growth, there is a point for any Christian who is truly walking closer to GOD, when they will peel away from the negative people in their life – Bels or Unbels.

[1Pe 4:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1pe/4/4/s_1155004) In *all* this, they are surprised that you do not run with *them* in the same excesses of debauchery, and they slander *you;*

You can not partake of darkness and cosmic distractions when you become intimate with GOD.

You will mentally draw a line in the sand and that is a sign you want to seriously become a mature Bel.

 REPEAT

This may upset people you have known for years…perhaps your whole life.

/Mat 10:34 “Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; **I did not come to bring peace, but a sword**. 35 “For I came to TURN A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW;

These are the words of Jesus – often misunderstood. HE never desires division, yet it is the result of the SWORD of TRUTH – BD.\

This holds true for Unbels who reject the gospel. But also, for Bels who are negative and heading into reversionism.

/[Mat 10:36](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/mat/10/36/s_939036) and A PERSON’S ENEMIES *WILL BE* THE **MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD**.

Sometimes other Christians who are backsliding, will be the ones who bring the division. Because you are heading on a real journey with GOD.\

[1Pe 4:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1pe/4/5/s_1155005) but they will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

In the end all Unbels will stand on their own merits at the Great White Throne Judgment. While all Bels, will stand in front of Christ at the Bema Seat Judgement, to see what they did with the time, talent and treasure GOD gave them after salvation.

It is not our jobs to be judge and jury for anyone.

We present the gospel to those who are lost and we present accurate truth to fellow Bels to help guide them…that is it!

You are not responsible to save people – you are responsible to become a beacon of light for others and spread the seeds of truth.

What happens after that is between those people and God.

[/1Pe 4:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1pe/4/6/s_1155006) For **the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead**, that though they are judged in the flesh as people, **they may live in the spirit according to *the will of* God.**

The reference is for all those who had heard the gospel before death or had been martyred for Christianity. THEY MAY live in the SPIRIT (free will choice before death).\

This scripture is also distorted by some denominations; to make people believe the dead have a chance to hear the gospel. While they sit waiting in a place of holding between heaven and hell.

You can never pray someone into heaven after they are dead!

Another denominational lie from the father of lies – SATAN.

The apostles witnessed many people suffer for Christianity and die for their beliefs.

They also witnessed many people who had heard the gospel and even seen TLJC in their life time who had died perhaps as Unbelievers.

 REPEAT

We all take responsibility for what we hear and what we believe.

This temporal life is over quickly, 80 or 100 years, make the right choices.

Your life is designed to help guide and save others not because you run out and hit people over the head with the Bible every day – but because you have grown up and reflect the nature of Christ;

/2Cor 3:2 **You are our letter**, written in our hearts, **known and read by all people, 3 revealing yourselves**, that **you are a letter of Christ**, delivered by us, written not with ink **but with the Spirit of the living God**, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.\

This is why it is important to not have the attitude of running away immediately, every time Unbels make you uncomfortable.

The more you grow up spiritually the more you can sit amongst the Unbels of the world and have the opportunity to reflect Jesus Christ.

/Heb 13:12 **Therefore Jesus also suffered outside the gate**, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood. 13 So then, **let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach**.

The call for Christians is to grow up and then go out to a lost and dying world and make a difference. \

Separation from human viewpoint and from worldliness — that is the key!

You can not do that without having the mind of Christ wash over you and change you. Worldliness is a mental attitude, not something people just do – thought content is the issue first.

Actions and lifestyles change after the thought content has been stimulated properly and reorganized.

What you retain deep in that soul structure matters – all of us have built up libraries deep in the soul.

Until that library is flushed clean and restocked with the truth, you will remain worldly-minded which will come out in your day-to-day life.

That content of the soul can only begin to be changed by a new birth – a new nature has to enter that soul.

After that new birth (faith alone in Christ alone), you have to begin a washing of the soul structure.

/Romans 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brothers *and sisters,* by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies** as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* **your spiritual service ofworship**. 2 And **do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that **you may prove what the will of God**is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.\

YOU MAY prove what the will and plan of God is – you have to be positive toward truth.

You first present your bodies meaning make yourself available, have the right attitude and become teachable.

Humility is teachability – humility starts by conforming your life to the study of the word.

/Having a balanced and organized life ensures you will have time for the word of GOD. God gives us 24 hours a day, if there is not an hour or even 45 minutes for HIM in that time period, that HE GAVE TO YOU, then something is wrong with your priorities and your life balance. Therefore, do not be in shock and awe when you lack discernment, or the skill set to know and when to apply doctrines such as separation. \

The Christian life is a call to sit, walk and stand.

SIT and learn and grow – then walk in the spiritual life in a proper fashion toward maturity. So you can stand against the schemes of the devil.