



"Armed for Suffering" (Part 2)

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1 Peter 4:3



1 Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 for 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 desires of the pagans, while having pursued licentiousness, lusts, drunkenness, partying, drinking binges, and lawless idolatries. 4 In this they are ever surprised that you do not run with [them] into the same flood of debauchery, [and] they blaspheme

[you]. 5 But they will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 [The Gospel] for this purpose has been preached even to the dead that although they are judged according to the flesh as men, they may live by the Spirit according to [the will of] God.

– 1 Peter 4:1-6, As translated from the Greek New Testament by T. Bartolucci.

The Passage is Also Found on Page 182 of the New Testament Section of the Pew Bibles

Introduction:

The reality of your testimony is one of the greatest apologetics for truth

"The time for sinning is past, the time for suffering is now, so suffer well"

I. What Does it Mean to be Armed for the Purpose of Suffering? (vv. 1-6)

A. We Have Clothed Ourselves With The Attitude of Christ (v 1a)

1. Peter is returning to the thoughts of 3:18 . . .

B. We Have Parted Ways With Our Past Life of Sin (v 1b)

1. This is evidence of saving faith!
2. There's nothing that proves and purifies motives like pain does

C. We Are Engaged in the Pursuit of God's Will, Not Our Own (v 2)

". . . whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin means 'whoever has suffered for doing right, and has still gone on obeying God in spite of the suffering it involved, has made a clear break with sin.'" [Wayne Grudem]

". . . the Apostle's thought seems to be that such suffering in daily life after Christ's pattern, and by His help, is at once a sign that the sufferer has shaken off the dominion of sin, and is a means of further emancipating him from it." [Alexander Maclaren]

1. Living the Christian life is all about seeking and doing God's will

D. We Know the Season for Sinning is _____ (v 3)

1. "Gentiles" or "Pagans"

2. Peter is drawing a contrast

Here in verse 3 he uses the word *boulēma* (βούλημα), the intentions or purposes of lost sinful men. The contrast is to verse 2 where he uses the word *thelēma* (θέλημα), the will of our Holy God. One group lives for themselves; the other group lives for Christ. One group does their own thing; the other group does God's.

3. Arm yourself with this thought: Any amount of past sinning is _____!

4. What follows are six types of sin: Three are personal and three are social in nature

a. Personal

(1)

(2)

(3)

b. Social

(1)

(2)

(3)

Conclusion: The reality of your testimony is one of the greatest apologetics for truth!