

THINKING LIKE CHRIST - 1 PETER 4

Vs. 1-6

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.

- We have to rethink suffering. Christ sacrificed Himself for us - to the point of death. Main point of the text. However, I'd like to add that every temptation was also sacrificed to God. He fought against the fleshly desires.
- It's time to put the armor on and be mentally prepared.
- **Romans 6:1-4** was a reminder of what their baptism meant.
- **Romans 6:12-14** teaches that sin will not reign, but yes, it does occur. There's a difference.
- **Romans 6:20-23** reminds of what "freedom" actually led to.
- **Ephesians 4:17-19** *Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.*
- Are you happy with your walk with Christ? We counted the cost, but do we regret it?
- Do we surprise people anymore? Or would they be shocked to learn we're Christian?
- We don't need to be shocked when the world acts like . . . well, the world.

Vs. 7-11

The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies - in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- Anyone picking up on the importance of prayer? It's a pillar of Christianity.
- If the fight against the flesh were easy, then I assume more people would get on board.
- Love doesn't seek to hurt or keep count of wrongdoing. . If someone has wronged me I should forgive them. That's what love does (**Proverbs 10:12**; **Ephesians 4:32**).
- Remember, we should know our gift, but remember it is a gift from God.
- **Romans 12:3** *For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.*

- It's good to remember that your gift of grace, if not received with humility, is not received by others with grace. We have a tendency to think too much of ourselves and this can be divisive. Like the church at Corinth. It made others think too much of themselves while others thought too little of themselves. I have to watch this as a minister. We have to watch this in our serving, etc. Let's make an effort to not turn a gift into a curse. Humility is the key. Sincerity is a beautiful trait. It's really not about us, but giving glory to the Lord.

Vs. 12-19

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

- The world is shocked when we act like Jesus. We shouldn't be shocked when we suffer like Him.
- **Acts 5:41** Then they (*the apostles*) left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.
- Again, if you're going to suffer, do it for the right reasons. There are those who suffer because of sin and there are those who side step suffering by not claiming Jesus. Did you
- Isn't it right for God to start with His people? After all . . . we're His children and spiritual house.
- Quotation is from the Septuagint translation (Greek translation of the Hebrew scriptures) of **Proverbs 11:31**. "Scarcely" has the meaning of "difficulty" and not "barely." "*Pertaining to being hard to accomplish, with difficulty.*" BDAG
- Some think Peter may, by inspiration, be referencing the persecution and fall of Jerusalem.