

The Book of I Peter Part 12 – I Peter 4:1-2

We continue our study in the book of I Peter by looking at chapter 4 now. If you'll remember, we concluded chapter 3 by looking at verses 21-22. Verse 21, some people believe and they teach that baptism saves, but that's not what the verse teaches. I would remind you that, as we go back and read the rest of that verse, it talks about baptism, *not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God*. Baptism doesn't save, but it does show our obedience to the preaching of Christ concerning His resurrection. It also speaks of our being raised up with Him to walk in newness of life. It's showing His death, burial, and resurrection, and we are to do that as the children of God.

In verse 22, it says that Christ has all authority. Jesus is in Heaven with God the Father, and He has all power over everyone and everything. The Lord is in control. And keep this in mind as we start in chapter 4 that it's actually a continuation from chapter 3. The theme of this chapter would be suffering for righteousness' sake. This carries on now in chapter 4 from chapter 3.

It talks about living in the end times, and Peter admonishes Christians here in chapter 4 to be serious and watchful in their prayers, fervent in their love for one another and hospitable to one another without grumbling. That's hard to do in our human form, in our being a human being. It's hard to do that. It's hard to be some of these things that Peter is talking about, but it's through the Spirit of the Lord that we can do these things. We really need to stay close to the Lord.

Peter also talks about suffering for Christ, and it should not be considered a strange thing but an occasion to rejoice, and once again, that's hard

for us to understand, how that we can rejoice when we're being persecuted and we're suffering for the Lord. Most of us have really never suffered for the Lord as we consider suffering. Some people think that, if they go without a meal once in a while, that is really suffering, but these people in the early church really suffered. There are people around the world today who are suffering for the Lord Jesus Christ, some of them even giving their lives. The Bible says that we are to rejoice when this suffering comes along.

The summary here for this chapter is Christ having died for us, and because of it, we should live for Christ. We're to be watchful in view of the speedy end. Some people say, "Well, it's been promised for years and we just don't think the Lord's coming back." I pray that you as a Christian don't have that attitude, but some unsaved people say, "Yeah, you Christians, you say that the Lord's coming back. Well, where is He?" Well, the Bible speaks of that as well, and the Bible says that God is not hindered with time. God is not concerned with time, as such, like a human being is. We are governed more or less by time in our lifetime, but God is not concerned with that. He does things His way and, as we think of it, in His time. So, Jesus is coming. The end is coming.

Jesus is coming for the church. The Bible teaches that you and I who name the name of Jesus Christ will go up and we'll be together with Him to meet Him in the clouds. We'll be together with those who have gone before, and if Christ doesn't come back for us before we end this life, before we die physically, we're still going to go with Him. We'll still be with the Lord, and then one day Jesus is coming back to this earth and those who have died and gone on

and those of us who are children of God, we will come back with Him at that time. Of course, that's another study and we will probably get into that a little later. But Christ having died for us, we should live for Christ.

Now as we look in the book of I Peter chapter 4, let's read the first verse. I would divide this chapter, first of all, suffering for righteousness' sake, and we see this in verses 1-6. Verse 1 says of I Peter chapter 4, *Forasmuch 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.* Having died for our sins, Christ is forever done with sin. You read this in Philippians 2:5-8. Peter, here in chapter 4, urges us likewise to have the same mind as Christ did, that we might also cease from sin, having died to sin and risen to a new life in Christ.

This must always be our goal and, increasingly, our reality until we finally come to a place that we will even cease from the presence of sin, and this is when we are with Him in Heaven. If you read Romans 6:1-14, you'll see a comparison here, but I'd like to read I John 3:2-10 now. *²Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.* And how is He? He's without sin.

Now, verse 3 of I John chapter 3 goes on and says this: *³And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.* *⁴Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.* *⁵And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.* *⁶Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.* *⁷Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.* *⁸He that committeth sin*

is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. *⁹Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.* *¹⁰In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.*

Once again, some people would teach you that there is such a thing as sinless perfection in this life, by reading these verses. But that's not what Peter is trying to show us here. He's trying to show us that Jesus Christ died to sin. He died once that you and I could be sin free, not in this flesh. Please do not misunderstand that I'm saying, when I'm speaking of this, that it's all right to sin. It's not all right to sin, but as long as we're in this flesh, we're going to have trouble.

In the book of Job it says man that is born of woman is full of trouble, and it never ends in this life, because we are in the flesh. But the key to these verses that I've just read in I John chapter 3, it says in verse 9, *Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin....* Why? For His seed remaineth in him and he cannot sin because he is born of God. What seed? It's the seed of Jesus. Jesus is the Seed. The Spirit of God dwells within the real person. That is the person who is going to go to heaven. That person, the real person, does not sin.

This flesh is going to sin until we are with Him, until we are perfect. We are not perfect at this point, but in the sight of God, we are. Why? Because God's son, His Seed, remains in us because we have trusted Him as our Savior. He is the Seed of righteousness, and it is because of His righteousness that we are going to Heaven. It's not because of our righteousnesses, because our righteousnesses are as filthy rags in the sight of God. In the sight of God, His Son, Jesus

Christ, cleanses us from all sin and we are made righteous through His blood.

So, no one in this world can claim to be sinlessly perfected. Sinless perfection will not take place until this body is dead. Either we are with the Lord through the Rapture or we go to the grave. That's when this body quits sinning and then, the Bible says, the real person, the person, not the body, goes to be with the Lord. We're going to have new bodies. This body will be changed. It will be incorruptible like that of the Lord Jesus Christ. What does the word "incorruptible" mean? Sinless. It will be changed, and then we can say, "Death where is thy victory? Sin, where is thy victory?" Because it's gone. Jesus Christ has now won the victory over death and sin for us, because He knew no sin.

Now, reasons that we're to have the mind of Christ... let's read that verse once again, I Peter 4:1. *Forasmuch 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.*

There are reasons to have the mind of Christ, according to verse 1. First, it's Christ has suffered for us in the flesh, and then we see that *he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin.* Christ died. He gave His life for us. The power of sin was erased when Christ died on the cross of Calvary. Now, it's sad that sin has not ceased for everybody, because they have not trusted Jesus Christ as their Savior. The Bible tells us that He died for the whole world. He died for the whole world but those people in the world, we people, must trust Him as Savior in order to have the blood of Christ applied to us.

Verse 2 of I Peter chapter 4 says this: *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.* And this is simply telling us that there's a wrong and a right way to live in this flesh. Do not live

for the lusts of the flesh, according to the first part of that verse. We are to live for the will of God. We are to do what God wants us to do as people. The first thing a person has to do in order to live for the will of God is to trust Jesus Christ as Savior. We must receive Him. We must trust Him to take us to Heaven, and that's what this verse is teaching. Verse 2 says, once again, *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.* This is God's plan for every human being on this planet, that we are to live for the will of God and not live for the lusts of the flesh.

Later, we'll look into the remainder of this chapter and we're going to see about lust, lewdness, and drunkenness, and that's coming up next in verse 3. But I would remind you that Jesus died for you. He wants you to be saved. He wants you to trust Him as Savior. God wants you to be with Him in glory, and the only way you can do that is by asking Jesus to come in and saying, "Lord, I give you my life. I want you to save me so I can go to Heaven. Lord, forgive me of my sin so I can go to Heaven. I want to be with You. Thank You, Lord, for dying for me."

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