

## I Peter – Chapter Four

This is a continuation of I Peter 3:18, Christ being our example of suffering for righteousness sake:

v. 1-6 – Since Christ has suffered for us, following his example, we should arm ourselves with the same mind that he had, expecting to be persecuted for righteousness sake, yet understanding that this will bring glory to the name of the Lord. v.2) That the rest of our time, our life, we will live not according to the lusts of men, but according to the will of God.v.3) for we used to live a life indulging in sex, liquor and idolatry. Partying hard. v.4) But now those of the world think we are strange and crazy that we no longer do those things. They also don't like it because our choice to "cease from sin" and live a holy life throws light on their choice to live a wicked and sinful one. They accuse you: "You think you're better than everybody." v.5) God will eventually judge your critics. v.6) For this cause the gospel was preached to those who were alive but are now dead, possibly martyred. They were judged wrongly by men in the flesh, but God honored them with life, according to the Spirit.

v. 7 – 11 – The end of things (Destruction of Jerusalem? The Rapture? Christ returning to reign? Destruction of the heavens and the earth at the end of the millennium? Considering any of these, there are giving some admonitions: be sober and vigilant in prayer v.8) have fervent love among yourselves, love covers the multitude of sins (Prov. 10:12). This means that love can overlook minor faults and failures: forbearance. This does not take the place of repentance and the blood of Jesus to forgive us of our sins. v.9) full of hospitality and kindness (Heb.13:2) v.10) Freely ministering the gifts God has given us for the benefit and edification of one another, not harboring our gifts for selfish gain, operating as good stewards of the manifold, varied grace of God. v.11) speaking as oracles of God, the exact words for those specific people at that particular time, with humility, giving God the glory for anything that is given, understanding that all ability, and gifts, all knowledge comes from the Lord. He gets the glory.

v. 12 – 19 – We should not be ashamed because we are suffering. These exhortations and observations concerning suffering for righteousness sake, for the gospel sake..... Think it not strange (and you are not strange) that you are experiencing a fiery trial. Suffering for the Christian is normal. Should we be treated any better than Christ? He said the world hated him and they would hate us. v.13) We should REJOICE that we are sharing in the Christ's suffering, that when his glory is revealed, we will be beyond joyful. v.14) If reproached (shamed or blamed) for the name of Christ HAPPY ARE YE (Pet .3:14). They speak evil of our God, but we glorify Him.v.15) There is no glory when the evil doer suffers; murderers, thieves, busybodies v.16) but glorify God when you are persecuted as a Christian—loss of family, fortune, reputation, friends. v.17) the world is judging the church now and for doing good we suffer; what then will be the fate of those who do not obey the gospel, who continue in wickedness? v.18) the righteous shall be saved only by the grace of God; what then will be the fate of the wicked who reject that grace.v.19) continue to live right, do right, even if we must suffer, and entrust ourselves and our souls to our faithful Lord.