

LIVING IN EXILE

¹ Peter 4:1-6 - Giving Account

May 15, 2016

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. -1 Peter 4:4-5

I. ARM YOURSELVES

- Christ's suffering is our example and our weapon against sin. His suffering demonstrates that suffering serves as a buffer to sin. It teaches us and draws us closer to Christ (Heb. 5:7-9).
- Believers have died to sin. It no longer reigns in our bodies (Rom. 6:1-11; Gal. 2:20; 1 John 3:4-10).

II. THE TIME THAT IS PAST SUFFICES

- What is done cannot be undone. Let the past remain in the past. The "glory days" were not so glorious for those of us who now live for Christ (Acts 3:19-20; 1 Cor. 15:9-10; Phil. 3:7-21).
- What the "Gentiles want to do" in vs. 3 is an expression meaning "sinners"; the list that follows clearly represents actions contrary to the will of God (Eph. 4:17).
- Non-believers and immature believers are shocked when we do not desire to live as pagans live. You will be maligned for Christ, but only if you live for Christ (Mark 13:13).

III. COMING HOME TO ROOST

- We will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ (Matt. 16:27; John 5:22; 2 Cor. 5:6-10; Heb. 9:27; Rev. 22:12).
- Vs. 6 - The gospel was preached to those who believed, but they still died. They were judged in the flesh by death, but as Christ-followers, they now live in the spirit like God (Josh. 23:14; Rom. 6:23; Heb. 11:13, 39-40).

KNOW: Armed with suffering as our weapon against sin, we now put away wanton lifestyles and pagan practices. Our goal is to suffer death, which is the "way of all the earth," so that we can live in the spirit with God forever.

DO: Live like someone who will give an account.

Suggested Reading:

Four Views on the Role of Works at the Final Judgment (CounterPoints series), by Wilkin, Schreiner, Dunn & Barber

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read 1 Peter 4:1-6

1. Peter keeps talking about suffering. Why, do you think?
2. How does suffering help us in our fight of faith?
3. How can we effectively share our testimonies without giving in to braggadocio or a nod to glee as we share about our pasts? Can we enjoy our past memories as believers, even those that involved sinful behavior?
4. Why do people want us to join in with their behavior? How do we respond when fellow believers invite us into sinful behaviors?
5. Peter says they will have to give an account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. Who are "they"? Talk more about judgment for Christians. What will that look like?
6. If Jesus died for sins once for all, why do we still have to die? Shouldn't the penalty of sin (death) be taken away now?
7. Does knowing you will stand before Christ one day influence your life and behavior? Should it?