

PERSEVERANCE: *How to View Suffering*

Got Hope? Messages from 1 Peter

April 17 & 18, 2010 • 1 Peter 4

4:¹Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. ²As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. ³For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.

•**This convicts me of self-indulgence and motivates me to _____.**

⁴They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. ⁵But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to men in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.

•**This makes me think of my friends and _____ me about their _____.**

⁷The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. ⁸Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

•**This puts things in perspective and challenges me to _____ and _____.**

¹²Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. ¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" ¹⁹So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

•**This reminds me of the meaning of pain and encourages me to _____.**

Questions for Personal Reflection And Group Discussion

1. Do you find that the Bible has much of an effect on you? How has it recently affected your thinking and your choices? Give an example.
2. Can you relate to the illustration concerning how easily our eyes adjust to the dark? Have you been casual about your moral habits? What needs to happen inside of you to reawaken and live fully for God?
3. In verse 5 we read about giving an account before God. To learn more about this, see Matt. 12:36; 18:23-35; Rom 14:12; and Heb. 4:13.
4. Jesus taught that we should live in a way in which we remain ready for his arrival. Read what he said about this in Luke 12:35-48. What do you think about these harsh words?
5. Verses 10 and 11 tell us that we have each received some gift to use in serving one another. How are currently serving other Christians?
6. To learn more about spiritual gifts see Rom. 12:1-13 and 1 Cor. 12. What principles jump out at you?
7. Is there any way in which you are currently suffering for your faith? Should you be?
8. Why can we rejoice in the midst of suffering?
9. Look at the summary in verse 19. What would committing yourself to God look like, giving your current issues and pain?
10. That last verse also tells us to continue to do good. What good can you accomplish at this stage in your life?

PERSEVERANCE: *How to View Suffering*

Got Hope? Messages from 1 Peter

April 17 & 18, 2010 • 1 Peter 4

4:¹Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. ²As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. ³For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.

•This convicts me of self-indulgence and motivates me to live for God.

⁴They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. ⁵But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to men in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.

•This makes me think of my friends and concerns me about their future.

⁷The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. ⁸Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

•This puts things in perspective and challenges me to love and serve.

¹²Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. ¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"¹⁹ So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

•This reminds me of the meaning of pain and encourages me to trust God.

