

JESUS - Our Living Hope

A Study of the Book of 1st Peter

Lesson Six

Gold River Calvary Chapel

Women's Bible Fellowship

Fall 2021



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Summary: This week we will learn why Christians are blessed in their suffering for Christ's sake.

Step One: Read the Word

“In Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:3

This study uses the Christian Standard Bible translation (CSB), which is provided for you in each lesson in Step One. Please use that version to fill in blanks or answer questions, but you are encouraged to read as many translations as you like in order to get a fuller understanding of the scripture.

In Step One, try to determine the “who, what, where, when or how” of the passage. Look for words that are repeated often, such as “beloved”, “suffering,” “good works” or “chosen.” Circle any key words and underline phrases that stick out to you. Use the column to the right to jot down any notes, scripture references, or questions you might have.

Note: There is an example of how to do Step One in the Introduction to this study. You can also use the “Bible Study Aids” included in the Introduction to gain more understanding of the passage of scripture.

Remember to always pray before you read God's Word, asking the Holy Spirit to open the scripture to your understanding.

Complete Step One by reading and marking up 1 Peter 4:1-19, below.

<p>1 Peter 4 Christian Standard Bible (CSB)</p> <p>Following Christ</p> <p>¹Therefore, since Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same understanding—because the one who suffers in the flesh is finished with sin— ²in order to live the remaining time in the flesh no longer for human desires, but for God’s will. ³For there has already been enough time spent in doing what the Gentiles choose to do: carrying on in unrestrained behavior, evil desires, drunkenness, orgies, carousing, and lawless idolatry. ⁴They are surprised that you don’t join them in the same flood of wild living—and they slander^[d] you. ⁵They will give an account to the one who stands ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶For this reason the gospel was also preached to those who are now dead, so that, although they might be judged in the flesh according to</p>	
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human standards, they might live in the spirit according to God's standards.

End-Time Ethics

⁷The end of all things is near; therefore, be alert and sober-minded for prayer. ⁸Above all, maintain constant love for one another, since **love covers a multitude of sins.** ⁹Be hospitable to one another without complaining. ¹⁰Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. ¹¹If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God's words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

Christian Suffering

¹²Dear friends, don't be surprised when the fiery ordeal comes among you to test you, as if something unusual were happening to you. ¹³Instead, rejoice as you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may also rejoice with great joy when his glory is

revealed. ¹⁴ If you are ridiculed for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God^[a] rests on you.

¹⁵ Let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or a meddler. ¹⁶ But if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed but let him glorify God in having that name. ¹⁷ For the time has come for judgment to begin with God's household, and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who disobey the gospel of God?

¹⁸ **And if a righteous person is saved with difficulty, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?**

¹⁹ So then, let those who suffer according to God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator while doing what is good.

Step 2: Consider the Word

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.” Colossians 3:16

Re-read 1 Peter Chapter 4 in its entirety and answer the questions below. (Remember to use the Christian Standard Bible (CSB) translation provided in Step One to answer).

1. In Chapter 4, Peter begins with “therefore” because he continues his comparison from Chapter 3 of our sufferings to those of Christ’s in order to give us a godly reason for suffering in patience and holiness.
 - a. Verse 1. What do you think Peter means when he says that the one who suffers in the flesh is finished with sin? How might suffering help purify us? (See 1 Peter 1:6-7 and James 1:2-4 for help).
 - b. Verse 1. What does the term “arming ourselves” tell you about how our godly understanding or perspective in our suffering can help us to fight against our fleshly nature?

2. Verses 2-5.

a. Verse 2. What do you think it means for Christians to live the remainder of their lives for God's will rather than human desires? What role would the word of God play in those choices?

b. Look at the list of ungodly behaviors in verse 3. Has the behavior of the unsaved gotten any better 2000 years later? What does this tell you about the human heart regardless of the century one is born in? (See also Jeremiah 17:9)

c. What hope does verse 5 give you about the justice Christians will receive when unjustly slandered?

3. In verses 7-11, Peter gives us godly wisdom about how we should occupy our time given our hope that Jesus will return soon.
 - a. Why do you think being alert and sober minded helps our prayer life? (Verse 7)

 - b. Look back at Chapter 1 verse 22 and compare it to Chapter 4 verse 8. What word is used in both verses to describe *how often* we are to love one another? What great benefit does Peter give in verse 8 that comes from love?

4. In verses 10-11, Peter gives us the right view of how we should exercise our spiritual gifts in the body of Christ.
 - a. When spiritual gifts are used appropriately, what is the impact on the church? Who gets the glory?

 - b. What wrong motives or attitudes might Christians have when they exercise their gifting?

5. In verses 12-19 Peter again returns to a common theme in this letter: our suffering as Christians.
- a. What insight can we gain by what Peter has already told us in Chapter 1:6-7 so that we won't be surprised when we suffer a fiery ordeal (i.e., a very difficult trial)? What good will come of our sufferings?
 - b. Why do you think we often *are* surprised when we go through a trial as if it were unusual? What does this say about our expectations?
 - c. See verse 13. Instead of being surprised by our trial, what are we supposed to do instead? Why?
 - d. According to verse 14, what beautiful blessing is ours when we are reviled and ridiculed for the name of Christ? How does 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 give us further insight into verse 14?

- e. See verse 15. Why do you think it was necessary for Peter to clarify that suffering because of bad behavior is *not* suffering for Christ? Can you think of some examples of this kind of wrong thinking?
6. What point do you think Peter is making in verse 17-18? What encouragement can we get from 1 Corinthians 11:32 about how God judges Christians as opposed to unbelievers?
7. Fill in the blanks below from verse 19 (which is also our memory verse):
- ¹⁹So, then, let those who suffer according to _____ _____ entrust themselves to a faithful Creator while doing what is good.
- a. What do the blanks you filled in tell you about God's role in your suffering? How does that fit with what you learned about the purpose of Christian suffering from 1 Peter 1:6-7?

b. What are we to do proactively *while* we are suffering?

c. Look back at 1 Peter 2:23. Who are we acting like when we live according to verse 19?

Memory Verse: “¹⁹ So then, let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator while doing what is good.” (1 Peter 4:19)

Write the memory verse down below:

Step 3: Walk in the Word

“...As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ.” Philipians 1:27

Re-read 1 Peter Chapter 4 in its entirety and answer the questions below:

1. See verses 1-3. Can you think of a time when your suffering caused you to “live no longer for human desires, but God’s will?” Explain below.
2. See verses 7-11. What do you think your spiritual gift or gifts are? How can you use them in a way that will benefit the body of Christ and bring glory to God?
3. See verses 12-19. Is your first reaction when suffering to commit yourself to your faithful Creator while continuing to do what is good? How might this reaction help you to bear up under a trial you are in?

Write the memory verse below:

**"¹⁹ So then, let those who _____ according to _____
will _____ themselves to a _____ Creator while
doing what is _____." (1 Peter 4:19)**

What lesson or truth meant the most to you this week?

Journal a prayer below, thanking God for that truth.

[illegible]

[illegible]