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SPRING SERIES 2022 – WEEK 9

1 Peter 4:1-6: Don't Lose Hope

...for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

– 1 Peter 4:1-2 ESV

- **Christ also suffered**

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit... – 1 Peter 3:18 ESV

- **Christ** – Χριστός (christos) the Messiah

- The Son of God
- The Lord
- The Unblemished Lamb of God
- The Righteous One

*Though he was God,
he did not think of equality with God
as something to cling to.*

*Instead, he gave up his divine privileges;
he took the humble position of a slave
and was born as a human being*

*When he appeared in human form,
he humbled himself in obedience to God*

and died a criminal's death on a cross. – Philippians 2:6-8 NLT

- According to Peter...
Jesus was...
...the righteous for the unrighteous – 3:18

who was...

...put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit – 3:18

so that...

...he might bring us to God – 3:18

but now...

...[He] has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him – 3:22

all angels – ἄγγελος (*angelos*) IN HEAVEN

all authorities – ἐξουσία (*exousia*) ON EARTH

all powers – δύναμις (*dynamis*) OF ANY KIND, ANYWHERE

*Christ Jesus is the one who died – more than that, who was raised – who is at the right hand of God, **who indeed is interceding for us**. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? – Romans 8:34-35 ESV*

*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither **death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.** – Romans 8:37-39 ESV*

- Because of Jesus' suffering and death
 - We **are loved** by God
 - And that **love is inseparable**
 - Because it's based on **Christ's work**, not ours
- **The sufferings of Christ**

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh... – 1 Peter 4:1 ESV

 - Because Christ suffered...
 - You have been born again – 1:3
 - You have a guaranteed inheritance – 1:4
 - Your soul has been saved – 1:9
 - You can live holy because you are holy – 1:15
 - You have been ransomed – 1:18
 - You're part of a holy priesthood – 2:5
 - And you are a member of a chosen race – 2:9
 - You should...

...arm yourselves with the same way of thinking... – 1 Peter 4:1 ESV

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. – Philippians 2:5-7 NLT

- The mind of Christ
 - Humility
 - Obedience
 - Selflessness
 - Sacrifice
 - Unmerited love

BUT THESE ARE ALL
OUTWARD EXPRESSIONS

- What was His **inward motivation**?
 - Unmerited love
- Having the mind of Christ means:
 - We share His desire to see God’s plan for the world accomplished
 - We carry on His mission
“...to seek and to save those who are lost.” – Luke 19:10 NLT
 - We refuse to let anything distract us

*But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For **you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.**” – Matthew 16:23 ESV*

- Suffering and the will of God

...so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. – 1 Peter 4:2 ESV

- Suffering for **doing good – in this life**
*For God is pleased when, conscious of his will, **you patiently endure unjust treatment.** – 1 Peter 2:19 NLT*

*...if you **suffer for doing good** and endure it patiently, God is pleased... – 1 Peter 2:20 NLT*

*For **God called you to do good**, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. – 1 Peter 2:21 NLT*

“Christians who share the kind of suffering Christ underwent as a human being, that is because of following God’s will, not human desires...show thereby that their behavior is no longer ruled by such sinful desires.” – Paul J. Achtemeier, *Hermeneia, 1 Peter*

*We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For **when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.** – Romans 6:6-7 NLT*

in the flesh = in this life

the time that is past = before you met Christ

- Out with the old – in with the new
 - Immorality** – shamelessness, sexual excess
 - Lust** – desire for what is forbidden
 - Feasting** – excessive consumption
 - Drunkenness** – over-indulgence
 - Wild parties** – drunken & destructive behavior
 - Idolatry** – unlawful worship

DOING EVIL	vs	DOING GOOD
Then		Now
Human passions		The will of God
The time that is past		The rest of the time
The dead		The living
Judged in the flesh		Live in the spirit

*For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in **sensuality**, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. – 1 Peter 4:3 ESV*

- The will of the Gentiles
 - will** – θέλημα (*thelēma*)
 - will, choice, inclination, desire, pleasure

THE WILL OF GOD vs THE WILL OF MAN

sensuality – ἐπιθυμία (*epithymia*)

One of the words Peter used to describe the culture of his day
desire, craving, longing, desire for what is forbidden, lust

*Their end is destruction, **their god is their belly**, and their glory is in their shame. Their minds are set on earthly things. – Philippians 3:19 BSB*

*...such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but **their own appetites.** – Romans 16:18 BSB*

- The shock of the Gentiles

*With respect to this they are **surprised** when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you... – 1 Peter 4:4 ESV*

surprised – ξενίζω (*xenizō*) – shocked, to think strange

“The reaction of the non-believing contemporaries is not so much ‘amazement’ as it is to be “put off” or “offended” by the strangeness of the Christians’ conduct, which in turn estranges the Christians from their contemporaries.” – Paul J. Achtemeier, *Hermeneia*, 1 Peter

- These people’s lives had been **radically changed**
- Changed **lives** result in changed **relationships**
- **Sanctification** can often result in **separation**
- Peter wasn’t encouraging total **disengagement**
- But he was demanding a life of **distinctiveness**

“...this verse is a further description of the kind of ‘exiles and aliens’ Christians had become within their own society, not so much as a political threat, as a social threat; Christians were seen as aloof, secretive, and ‘socially indigestible.’” – Paul J. Achtemeier, *Hermeneia*, 1 Peter

- **Dead but alive**

...but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does. – 1 Peter 4:5-6 ESV

- What is Peter talking about?
- Who are those who will give an account?
- When will the living and the dead be judged?
- What does it mean to be judged in the flesh?
- What does it mean to live in the spirit?

- Judged

- Peter is talking about the final judgment
- When all unbelievers will answer to God
- At the Great White Throne Judgment

Revelation 20:12-15 ESV

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is

the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

- The goal of the gospel: The book of life
*For **this** is why the gospel was preached... – vs 6*
 - This was meant to be good news to his readers
 - Their names were recorded in the book of life
 - Their futures were secure
 - They would not face judgment
 - Even those who had died would live in the spirit
 - And one day, so would they

*Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.***
– 1 John 3:2-3 ESV

- **Discussion questions**

Why should knowing that those who persecute and malign us for our faith will one day be judged for their actions bring us encouragement in this life?

Where do you see the battle between the passions of man and the will of God taking place in your life? How would thinking like Christ help?

Read Romans 8:12-14. How do these verses help explain that we have “ceased from sin?”



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SPRING SERIES 2022 – WEEK 10 HOMEWORK

WEEK 10 – 1 Peter 4:7-11: Work While You Wait

Peter lived with a sense of anticipation and expectation. He understood that the return of the Lord was a vital part of God’s redemptive plan. As Paul put it, “the day of salvation” was tied directly to the second coming of Jesus. His return was an essential and nonnegotiable requirement for the Kingdom to be restored, and each of these men still longed to see that happen in their lifetimes. Jesus’ departure had delayed but not diminished their hopes. He had promised to return, and they believed Him.

Peter encouraged a lifestyle marked by grace-based love, complaint-free hospitality, and a God-glorifying use of their spiritual gifts. They were to love as they had been loved by God. They were to open their hearts and homes, providing the same gracious and warm welcome into the family of God that they had received. And they were to use the gifts given to them by the Spirit of God to bless the people of God. As they waited for the return of the Lord, they were to remain busy about the business of doing good.

- Read 1 Peter 4:7-11. Write down any thoughts that jump out at you from these verses.

- Set aside some time to read pages 65-68 of Ken’s Devotionary™ on 1 Peter.

- According to verse 7, it would appear that Peter believed the coming of Christ to be right around the corner. Obviously, he was wrong. Yet, why is it essential that we live with the same sense of urgency and expectancy? What difference would it make in the way we lived our lives?

What do you think Peter means by “self-controlled” and “sober-minded?”

Read the following quote from Devotionary™ and write down how you might apply it in your own life.

“Peter knew that his readers were undergoing intense persecution and it would be easy for them to become fixated on their circumstances and lose hope. So, he called them to refocus their attention on the promise of Christ’s return. This was going to require that they think clearly and evaluate their circumstances soundly.”

- Why do you think Peter put such a strong emphasis on loving one another in verse 8?

Why would hospitality be important based on the circumstances his readers were going through? What would that look like in our context?

- In verses 10-11, Peter puts a high priority on honoring God with the way we live our lives, and especially when it comes to our relationship with fellow believers. Why is this so important?
- Read Galatians 6:9-10. What would it look like for you to “do good to everyone – especially to those in the family of faith?”