

FOR THIS CAUSE WAS THE GOSPEL PREACHED 1 PETER 4:6

Text: 1 Peter 4:6

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⁶ For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

Introduction:

1 Peter chapter 4 relates principally to the manner in which those to whom the apostle wrote ought to bear their trials, and to the encouragements to a holy life, notwithstanding their persecutions.

Peter had commenced the subject in the preceding chapter, and had referred them particularly to the example of the Saviour.

His concern was, that if they suffered, it should not be for crime, and that their enemies should not be able to bring any well-founded accusation against them He would have them pure and harmless, patient and submissive; faithful in the performance of their duties,

and confidently looking forward to the time when they should be delivered.

He exhorts them that:

1. CHRISTIANS ARE COMMANDED TO DO THE WILL OF GOD (VS. 1-2)

1 Peter 4:1-2

¹ *Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;*

² *That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.*

A. We are to have the same mind or attitude that Christ exemplified. (vs. 1)

Philippians 2:5

⁵ *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

The example of our Lord Jesus Christ is set before us. We must resemble him in his life, if we would have the benefit of his death.

In His human nature; he became like us in all things except sin. He stooped from the glory he had with the Father before the world was.

- Suffering with Christ should lead us to a holy life.
- Jesus Christ is our proper pattern; have the same disposition he had; the same forgiving spirit, with meekness, and gentleness.

B. We Are To Conform Wholly to the Will of God
(vs. 2)

1 Peter 4:2

² That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

Romans 12:2

² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

In order to wholly conform to the will of God or mind must be transformed or renewed with the mind of Christ.

Not only does he exhort them that are we commanded to do the will of God but also:

2. CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED TO DO THE WILL OF GOD (VS. 3-4)

1 Peter 4:3-4

³ For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: ⁴ Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:

We are to:

A. Withdraw From the Past Life (vs. 3)

B. Walk With God (vs. 4)

(Read Ephesians 2:1-13)

Ephesians 2:1-13

¹ And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; ² Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: ³ Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy,

for his great love wherewith he loved us,⁵ Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)⁶ And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:⁷ That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.¹¹ Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;¹² That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:¹³ But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Not only does he exhort them that We Are Comanded to do the Will of God; and We Are Called to do the Will of God but also:

3. CHRISTIANS ARE COMMITTED TO DO THE WILL OF GOD (VS. 5-6)

1 Peter 4:5-6

⁵ *Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.* ⁶ *For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.*

A. We Are Accountable to God (vs. 5)

B. For This Cause Was the Gospel Preached (vs. 6)

Close:

To live for the will of God, Christians must consider three things: that we are commanded, called and committed to do the will of God and to do that we must take the same attitude like Christ and conformed wholly to the will of God and Live with passion for the will of God.