

What stood out to you in this week's sermon?

Read 1 Peter 4:1-6

Peter frequently exhorts us to be like Christ. In verse 1 he says "arm yourselves with the same way of thinking." What way of thinking? What do you do to "arm" yourself? As you have pursued Jesus and "suffered in the flesh," in what ways has this encouraged and motivated you to "cease from sin"?

Since becoming a Christian, share examples of how you have committed yourself "to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God" (v. 2). What have you given up? What have you gained?

When you see unbelieving friends who knew you before you became a Christian, are they "surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery" (v. 4)? Have they ever maligned you because of your faith? If so, how well did you handle this? In what ways does God provide you comfort and guidance in situations like these?

In verse 5, Peter reminds us that unbelievers (of course Christians, too) must "give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead." Do you find comfort in the fact that those who harm and persecute you because of your faith will someday be judged by God? Why or why not? In what ways does the knowledge of future judgement affect your daily living?

Peter ends this passage with a reminder that "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" (v. 6). This verse is for all those (past and present) who have believed in the gospel of Christ. In your prayer time, thank God for salvation, for new life in Jesus, and for our future hope in heaven.

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