

## **Book of 1 Peter—1 Peter 4**

### **Christian Living**

#### **I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...**

**4:1... hath ceased from sin**—“The person who has suffered persecution for his faith in Jesus Christ finds that sin no longer has any appeal to him. Just as fire burns impurities away from precious ore and leaves the pure metal, so the fires of persecution clear away spiritual lethargy and fleshly lusts to leave the Christian stronger with a greater desire for 'those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God' (Col. 3:1)” [Rod Rutherford, “The Call to Duty in the Midst of Persecution,” in *Things Pertaining to Life and Godliness*, edited by Rod Rutherford].

**4:6... For this cause was the gospel preached to them that are dead**—“The expression, 'for this cause,' refers to God's plan for judging the living and the dead. Because all men—whether living or dead—are going to be judged, then the gospel had to be preached to all men. Was the gospel preached to the dead while they were alive or after they died? The tense of the verb suggests the people heard the gospel while they were alive, but they are now dead. Who are the dead Peter had in mind? Are they not the people who are now dead, but who were alive when the gospel was preached unto them? The verse cannot mean that men will have another chance after they die to obey the gospel. The Hebrew writer emphatically stated: 'And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment' (Heb 9:27)” [Winford Claiborne, *Divine Relationships*, p. 245].

**4:7... the end of all things is at hand**—“It must be kept in mind that Peter was writing to Christians in the first century. If he told them that the end was near, meaning the end of the world, he did not tell the truth for the world has continued more than 1,900 years since Peter wrote. There is no substance either in the supposition of the modernists that Peter fully expected Jesus to come in his lifetime as did the other sacred writers but was mistaken. The believer in Peter's inspiration will take the phrase in the context of the passage and the overall context of the epistle. Remember that Peter was writing just a few short years before the destruction of Jerusalem and with it the final vestiges of the then defunct Old Testament system of sacrifice and ritual. The destruction of this city and its temple which embodied Judaism and (to the non-discerning eye of a heathen), also Christianity, would unleash a severe persecution against the people of God. It must be this of which the inspired penman writes” [Rod Rutherford, “The Call to Duty in the Midst of Persecution,” in *Things Pertaining to Life and Godliness*, edited by Rod Rutherford].  
||||| “The destruction of Jerusalem was such a catastrophic event the language Peter used would certainly be appropriate. The Jewish state had been in existence for almost fifteen hundred years. Its destruction could be accurately described as 'the end of all things.' Of course, that kind of language could be used in reference to the end of the world, but it does not seem to fit the context of 1 Peter” [Winford Claiborne, *Divine Relationships*, pp. 247-48].

**4:17... for the time is come that judgment must begin**—“The judgment spoken of in verse seventeen is not the judgment of the last day... One needs to go back to Matthew, chapter 24, and read the first thirty-five verses to find a clear description of the events that would transpire on that perilous occasion as predicted by our Lord himself. Adam Clarke points out that when the Roman army first began the siege of Jerusalem, many

Christians were in the city. For some strange and unknown reason, the siege was briefly lifted and the army temporarily withdrew. The Christians remembering Jesus' prophetic words, fled from the city to Pella, east of the Jordan. So far as we know, not a single follower of Jesus died in the destruction of the city although the Christians did suffer in the aftermath of the war" [Rod Rutherford, "The Call to Duty in the Midst of Persecution," in *Things Pertaining to Life and Godliness*, edited by Rod Rutherford]. Cf., Mt 24:22.

## II. **ADVANCED STUDY (extra study posts)—Links to the WWW...**

4:1-4... <http://LemmonsAid.net/laposts/la0651.htm>  
4:3... <http://LemmonsAid.net/laposts/la0199.htm>  
4:8... <http://LemmonsAid.net/laposts/la0138.htm>  
4:9... <http://LemmonsAid.net/laposts/la0144.htm>  
4:11... <http://LemmonsAid.net/bsg/01103102.pdf>  
4:11... <http://LemmonsAid.net/laposts/la0111.htm>  
4:14-16... <http://LemmonsAid.net/laposts/la0737.htm>  
4:14-16... <http://LemmonsAid.net/laposts/la0761.htm>  
4:19... <http://LemmonsAid.net/laposts/la0290.htm>

## III. **Chronology.**

### **BIBLE PERIOD: The Period of the Church.**

"The First Epistle of Peter was written to Christians who were enduring persecution, not for wrong-doing, but merely because they followed Christ and consequently refused to participate in the immoral practices of the pagan society in which they lived. The suffering brought about by their present persecution was soon to increase dramatically as the Jewish War approached. In A.D. 66, the Jews rebelled against their Roman lords but by A.D. 70 nearly all opposition was crushed. When the Roman army under Titus defeated and destroyed Jerusalem that year, the Jewish people throughout the Empire suffered as mobs took advantage of the general hostility to ridicule, rob, and even to kill Jews. Because Christianity had grown up in the cradle of Judaism, Christians, whether Jews or Gentiles, were regarded the same as Jews. Therefore, Christians throughout the Empire suffered along with the Jews in the War and its aftermath. It is against this background that the admonitions of 1 Pet. 4 are given" [Rod Rutherford, "The Call to Duty in the Midst of Persecution," in *Things Pertaining to Life and Godliness*, edited by Rod Rutherford].

## IV. **Summary.**

Peter begins by talking to us about a special kind of ARMOR. He tells us to ARM ourselves with the mind of Christ. As we live the Christian life, we will surely be in need of this kind of spiritual armor. We are greatly blessed to have the example of Christ and the teaching He left with His apostles! He tells us that the sins of our past life are sufficient (i.e., we don't need to commit any more)! He raises the distinct possibility that we may be able to influence our former associates in evil by a changed and godly life. He talks about the END being at hand and likely this is a reference to the same subject matter Jesus dealt with in the first part of Matthew 24—the destruction of Jerusalem. He provides many short and easy-to-understand exhortations regarding manner of life which will be a tremendous help to Christians who are facing persecution and of value also to Christians who are not. The interesting idea of rejoicing in being able to participate in the suffering of Christ is also mentioned by Peter (v. 13). He places special emphasis on wearing the name CHRISTIAN!

**V. Outline.**

1. Value in suffering (1 Pet 4:1-4).
2. Judgment by persecution (5-7).
3. Christian living (8-11).
4. Rejoice in trial (12-19).

**VI. Questions.**

**True or False**

01. \_\_\_\_\_ Peter speaks of the Creator in 1 Peter 4.
02. \_\_\_\_\_ Good stewardship is one of Peter’s subjects in 1 Peter 4.
03. \_\_\_\_\_ Former companions of Christians may think them to be strange in their new life.
04. \_\_\_\_\_ The Lord will judge the living and the dead.
05. \_\_\_\_\_ It is appropriate to think that the fiery trial is strange.

**Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)**

06. \_\_\_\_\_ Because of special circumstances, Peter urges Christians to watch unto prayer and be: (a) separate; (b) sober; (c) special.
07. \_\_\_\_\_ Which of the following should Christians NOT suffer as: (a) a murderer; (b) a thief; (c) an evil doer; (d) a busybody; (e) none of these; (f) all of these.
08. \_\_\_\_\_ Above all things, Christians should have: (a) fervent charity; (b) full consideration; (c) factious spirits.
09. \_\_\_\_\_ Because of this, the gospel was preached: (a) there will be a judgment; (b) the apostles; (c) the Christians at Jerusalem.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Being reproached for the name of Christ should cause us to be: (a) sad; (b) happy; (c) fulfilled.

**Fill in the Blanks**

11. “And if the \_\_\_\_\_ scarcely be saved, where shall the \_\_\_\_\_ and the sinner appear?”
12. When the glory of the Lord is revealed, the faithful Christian will be glad with \_\_\_\_\_ joy.
13. Christ has suffered \_\_\_\_\_ .
14. We should be good stewards of the \_\_\_\_\_ grace of \_\_\_\_\_ .
15. “Yet if any man suffer as a \_\_\_\_\_, let him not be \_\_\_\_\_; but let him glorify God on this behalf.”

*Each Question is worth 7 Points*

**My Score is:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Answers will be found on next week’s handout*

**ANSWERS to 1 Peter 3 Questions...** [(1) True, 1 Pet 3:21; (2) True, 1 Pet 3:22; (3) True, 1 Pet 3:19-20; (4) True, 1 Pet 3:6; (5) True, 1 Pet 3:7; (6) a, 1 Pet 3:2; (7) c, 1 Pet 3:9; (8) c, 1 Pet 3:12; (9) a, 1 Pet 3:15; (10) a, 1 Pet 3:17; (11) unjust, 1 Pet 3:18; (12) great, price, 1 Pet 3:4; (13) brethren, pitiful, courteous, 1 Pet 3:8; (14) Sarah, 1 Pet 3:6; (15) mind, compassion, 1 Pet 3:8.]

**VII. Lessons & Applications.**

The lessons below are from Rod Rutherford--“The Call to Duty in the Midst of Persecution,” in *Things Pertaining to Life and Godliness*, edited by Rod Rutherford].

1. Persecution is good for the child of God for it purges his desire to sin and makes him stronger in the faith.

2. The Christian life is a changed life. The child of God will put away worldly activities in which he formerly engaged. One's old companions will not understand the change but perhaps this will afford an opportunity to teach them the truth of the gospel.
3. Christians should all be bound together in love. This love will prompt a willing, forgiving spirit (Matt. 6:14-15; Eph. 4:32).
4. Hospitality is a Christian virtue that brings great blessings, both to the host and to his guests.
5. As disciples of Christ, we are privileged to wear his name. We should never bring reproach upon it by evil doing but bring glory to God by our exemplary living. The name "Christian" is the name all believers in Christ can wear in unity. When one hyphenates it, by prefixing human names to it, e.g., "Baptist-Christian," "Methodist-Christian," etc., he has corrupted God's Word and fostered division among professed believers in Christ.
6. We can trust in God to keep us through all the trials of life and to give us a home with him at last.

**VIII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.**

Z C A Q W S X C D E R F T V B G T Y H N  
 J U H I K B L O Z A Q O W S S X C S V U  
 F R A A D F L E S H N V E F R T E Y O J  
 H N P M R K I O P Y V V F R E L D Y C U  
 Z A P W S I V X E G L T Y H C N F M K D  
 T P Y R F V T B C E D E W A S O X Y C G  
 V R F R T G O Y S B N H R Y E U T M J E  
 B E U V C X Z R A Q W O E N D I C V F R  
 T A G N B S U F F I C E O B L N S H Y U  
 V C F R N O E D C X S N Q A A D C V E Z  
 B H G T Y O Y H N M T Z T Y R T S C E D  
 N E C M X S T W Q E A I Z A X R I D E R  
 A D R F V B G W L Y P U W I K O N E V F  
 I A R F V D X C I S B E E W J T N G X Z  
 T V F R N T G B O T T C D E E A E N R T  
 S C G E V F R H T S H Y R U I E R A L O  
 I N H Y G T B C D C D T E R F R V R B N  
 R B V C X Z A O Q W S X H C D C E T R F  
 H V B G T Y O U J M B G T E R F V S E C  
 C V F R T G E D C V F B R M M A Q D R L

*[The words (or word locaters) listed below are to be found in the text of our lesson. They also are found in the puzzle above. This is just one more way to reinforce what you have studied from the text. Why not read the whole verse where the word is found one more time as you do the puzzle? Thank you for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. Let's desire the sincere milk of the word that we may grow (1 Pet 2:2). DRL]*

<b>1 Peter 4</b>	
ARM YOURSELVES, verse 1	ORACLES, verse 11
FLESH, verse 2	STRANGE, verse 12
SUFFICE, verse 3	REJOICE, verse 13
RUN NOT WITH THEM, verse 4	HAPPY, verse 14
JUDGE, verse 5	LET NONE OF YOU, verse 15
PREACHED, verse 6	CHRISTIAN, verse 16
END, verse 7	OBEY NOT, verse 17
CHARITY, verse 8	SINNER, verse 18
HOSPITALITY, verse 9	CREATOR, verse 19
GOOD STEWARDS, verse 10	

I have prepared a crossword puzzle on the content of 1 Peter 4, you can find it by clicking [H-E-R-E](#).