



ARM YOURSELF

ARM YOURSELF: Decide beforehand to think like Jesus—choosing _____ even when it costs you.

I. _____ Christ's resolve.

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking ... v. 1a

DIAGNOSTIC QUESTION: *Have I decided beforehand that I would rather suffer than disobey God?*

II. _____ your former life.

... or 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. 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. vv. 1b-3

DIAGNOSTIC QUESTION: *What is God asking you to say no to that you still hold on to?*

III. _____ the social cost.

With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you ... v. 4

DIAGNOSTIC QUESTION: *Whose approval am I most tempted to preserve at the expense of obedience?*

IV. _____ God's final verdict.

... 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. vv. 5-6

DIAGNOSTIC QUESTION: *Whose verdict am I living for—theirs or God's?*

HOW DO YOU ARM YOURSELF?

Remember what is true because of Christ:

Christ has freed me.

Sin does not own me.

Jesus is better.

God gets the final word.

BELIEVE IT. ACT ON IT.

HOME GROUP

Lesson + Devotional

Before you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide your study.

1. Read 1 Peter 4:1-6. Jesus was resolved that His Father's will was worth suffering for. Have you settled the question in your heart that you would rather suffer than disobey God? If so, when did you settle it? If you haven't, why not?

2. Would you say that you have abandoned your "former life"? How have you noticed some of those old ways creeping back in, and under what circumstances does that tend to occur?

3. Have you ever experienced ridicule from nonbelievers for your faith? If so, how did you respond? Why did you react in that way?

4. How does Peter encourage believers who endure mocking from unbelievers?

5. Why should we have a patient attitude toward unbelievers even when they malign us for our faith?

6. In regard to abandoning your former life before you knew Jesus, where do you especially need the help of the Spirit of God?

7. Review the four diagnostic questions on the sermon notes. Which of these especially struck a chord with you, and why? How will you use that question to help you move forward in your walk with Jesus?

8. What are some ways you can make the rest of your time here count for eternity?

1 PETER 4:1-6 New Living Translation

So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have finished with sin. You won't spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God. You have had enough in the past of the evil things that godless people enjoy—their immorality and lust, their feasting and drunkenness and wild parties, and their terrible worship of idols. Of course, your former friends are surprised when you no longer plunge into the flood of wild and destructive things they do. So they slander you. But remember that they will have to face God, who stands ready to judge everyone, both the living and the dead. That is why the Good News was preached to those who are now dead—so although they were destined to die like all people, they now live forever with God in the Spirit.

HELPFUL Quotes

Maintaining proper conduct in suffering requires that Christians maintain a Christlike attitude, living for the present in God's will, knowing that they will live for eternity in His presence. - Roger Raymer

Do you want to stand out as an ambassador for the kingdom of light in the midst of an empire of darkness? Do you want to be like brave soldiers of the faith throughout history? Of course you do! You don't need to arm yourself with fanaticism. You won't want to cultivate a judgmental attitude or wag a condemning finger. All you have to do is put on a lifestyle impervious to unreasonable assaults. Many will give you the cold shoulder. Others will strike out with slander. You may live in a danger zone where others may even try to harm you physically. But a few people will see the noble character reflected in your changed life and inquire about your King. - Chuck Swindoll

The fourth chapter of 1 Peter continues the discussion of the Christian's relationship to his fellow men. First Peter 3 concluded with the sufferings of Christ, and this subject is carried into chapter 4. The example of Jesus Christ in His suffering should inspire the Christian to strength and purity in his own life. - Louis Barbieri

Peter had a great deal to say about *time*. Certainly the awareness of his own impending martyrdom had something to do with this emphasis. If a person really believes in eternity, then he will make the best use of time. If we are convinced that Jesus is coming, then we will want to live prepared lives. Whether Jesus comes first or death comes first, we want to make "the rest of the time" count for eternity. - Warren Wiersbe

YOUR NEXT STEP AT Christ Chapel



Connect and Belong

New or returning, fill out a Connect Card and experience life together at Christ Chapel.

Together in Prayer

We want to pray with and for you this week as we go to God together.



Partner with Us by Giving

Be a part of what God is doing near and far by giving to local and global ministry partners.

Upcoming Events

Join in to grow your faith, make disciples, and reach those who do not know or walk with Jesus.



A WONDERFUL Offer

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Admit that you're a sinner, separated from a holy and perfect God.
(Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Understand that the penalty for your sin is death – eternal separation from God and all that is good.
(Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Believe that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and conquered death by rising from the dead.
(Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior from sin and death and your provider of true and eternal life.
(Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in him alone as the only way to be reconciled to you. Thank you for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen.



We'd love to know about your decision. Scan the QR code to learn more about following Jesus!

SERMON BLANKS: obedience, Adopt, Abandon, Accept, Await