

1 Peter 4 - The Glory to be Revealed

4:1-6 ABSTAIN FROM IMMORAL BEHAVIOUR

v1 Forasmuch then: Clear connection with **1 Pet 3:18**. **As Christ hath suffered for us:** As our representative. **In the flesh:** Important words! Emphasised 3x in this section. Also in **1 Pet 1:24; 3:18,21; 4:2,6**. The same word *flesh* is in **Rom 8:3; 2 Pet 2:10,18; Heb 5:7; 1 Jn 2:16** and describes mortal human nature. Those in the first century who rejected that Christ came "in the flesh" are described as "deceivers" and the "antichrist": **1 Jn 4:1-2; 2 Jn 7**. Those beliefs (and others) ultimately developed into the Roman Catholic Church. Jesus was tempted as we are yet without sin: **Heb 2:14-18; 4:15**. He was a descendant of Abraham and David: **Gal 3:16; Acts 13:23**. He was *made a little lower than the angels*: **Heb 2:7-9**. It is fundamental to God's whole plan of salvation that Jesus came in our nature to defeat sin on our behalf. Jesus was exalted to immortality because of his perfect obedience: **Phil 2:5-10**. God was his Father, yet he has sympathy for our weaknesses.

Arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: Lit. *put on armour*. We wage a spiritual war, as soldiers of Christ: **Eph 6:7-13; 2 Tim 2:3-4**. Arm ourselves with the mind of the spirit: **Rom 8:6; 13:14; 2 Cor 10:3-4; Phil 2:5; Heb 12:3**. **Ceased from sin:** Christ did not sin but was subject to temptation. His struggle against sin ceased when he died: **Rom 6:6**. Read John Carter's comments in *Paul's letter to the Romans* p.68-69. **v2 No longer live in the flesh:** Christ was given immortality. As he rose to life *physically*, so we should *morally*: **Rom 6:12-14; 1 Pet 2:21-24**. **Lusts of men:** As in **4:3-4**. **v3 Time past of our life:** One who is baptised puts away their old way of life and puts on Christ: **Rom 6:4**. **The will of the Gentiles:** ESV "doing what the Gentiles want to do." **Lasciviousness:** Gk. *disgusting sensuality*. **Excess of wine, revellings:** Another allusion to Daniel in **Dan 5:1-4,23** where it repeatedly says they *drank wine*. Belshazzar's feast is typical of our world today: **Lk 21:34**. A symbol of Babylon the Great at the time of the end: **Rev 14:8,10; 16:19; 17:2; 18:3,6,13**. Wine dulls the senses: **Prov 23:30-33**. Exhortation is for us to be sober minded: **1 Thess 5:6-8; Pet 1:13; 4:7; 5:8**. Alcohol is

the source of so much trouble today. Scripture warns repeatedly of its dangers: **Hab 2:15-16; Mt 24:29**. Even governments of today warn of the dangers in advertising. Alcohol changes the whole mood of social gatherings. Is this really what we need in these last days? Drunkards will not inherit the Kingdom: **1 Cor 6:10**. **Banquetings:** In modern language, *binge drinking*. **Idolatries:** Worship of false gods is associated with partying and drinking wine: **Dan 5:4**. Covetousness is idolatry: **Col 3:5**. John's first epistle ends with a warning to stay away from idols: **1 Jn 5:21**. The ultimate idol is self. **v4 Think it strange:** The world we live in today! **Speak evil:** As they did of Christ: **Jn 15:18; 1 Jn 3:13**.

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. 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: 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

v5 Give account to him: The responsible will stand before the judgment seat of Christ: **Mt 25:19-34; Jn 5:28-29; 2 Cor 5:10; 2 Tim 4:1,7-8**. Believers therefore refrain from such worldly behaviour. Those judged worthy will be granted immortality by Christ: **Mt 25:34-46; Rom 2:7; 1 Cor 15:53**. **Quick and the dead:** Both living and dead are raised. Knowledge of the gospel determines responsibility for judgment: **Jn 9:41; 12:47-48**. There will be a resurrection of faithful and unfaithful: **Dan 12:2; Acts 24:15; Jn 5:28-29**. **v6 Them that are dead:** In **3:19** Christ preached to those imprisoned by sin. The gospel is preached to those who are "dead in trespasses and sins": **Eph 2:1**. **Men in the flesh:** Means "although they might be condemned indeed by men in the flesh." cp. **4:4**. **According to God in the spirit:** We live for God, walking in the spirit: **Gal 5:16**.

4:7-11 FERVENT LOVE

v7 End of all things at hand: Initially this was AD70 for those in the first century: **Mt 24:14**. For us this is the return of Christ: **1:7**. **Sober:** Gk. *Of sound mind*. NIV "be clear-minded and self-controlled so that you can pray." Also **Rom 12:3; 2 Cor 5:13; Tit 2:6**. **Watch:** Means *sober* and is translated that way in **1:13; 5:8; 1 Thess 5:6,8**. **Prayer:** Another allusion to the life of Daniel who prayed for others and who was alert to the signs of the times: **Dan 2:19-23; 6:10; 9:3-15**. See **Jas 5:13-17**.

v8 Above all things: Most important principle of all, one that drives all our behaviour. **Fervent:** Gk. *stretch out the hand*. Jesus did this when he healed, eg. **Mt 8:3; 12:13; Mk 1:41**. Used of Jesus to Peter in **Mt 14:31**. Also of the ecclesia praying for Peter: **Acts 12:5**. **Love:** Gk. *agape*, 116x in NT. Self sacrificial love: **1 Cor 13:5-6; 1 Jn 4:7-19**. Jesus the ultimate example: **Jn 13:35; 15:13; 17:26; 21:15-17**. **Cover sins:** From **Prov 10:12**, cp. **Psa 32:1-6; 51:1-7**. Final words in James: **Jas 5:20**.

v9 Hospitality without grudging: Lit. means to *love strangers*. He doesn't just spend time with his close friends. He invites others in, thinks outwardly, cares for the lonely. See also **Tit 1:8; Rom 12:13; Heb 13:1-2; 1 Tim 3:2**. Are we willing to go out of our comfort zone to reach out to the lonely?

v10 Received the gift: Sometimes used for the spirit gifts, but in a broader sense it is used of the grace of God for many blessings we receive. **As good stewards:** We are under direction of God to do His will. To whom much is given, much is required: **Lk 12:35-48**.

be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

⁷ But ^b the end of all things is at hand; be ye therefore sober, and ^c watch unto prayer.

⁸ And above all things ^d have fervent charity among yourselves: ^e for ^h charity ² shall cover the multitude of sins.

⁹ Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

¹⁰ As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good ^m stewards of ^k the manifold grace of God.

¹¹ If any man speak, let him speak as ^p the oracles of God; if any man ^q minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that ^a God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, ^t to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

¹² Beloved, think it not strange concerning ^v the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: **v12-13 KEY VERSES**

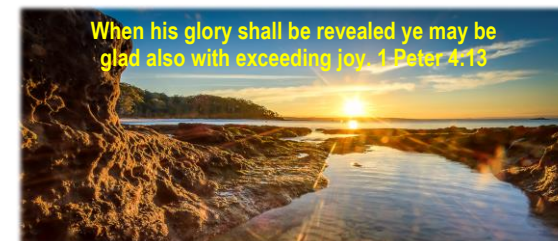
¹³ But ^b rejoice, inasmuch as ^e ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, ^d when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

¹⁴ If ye be reproached ^h for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: ^k on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as ^m a busybody in other men's matters.

¹⁶ Yet if any man suffer as ^a a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

¹⁷ For the time is come that judgment must begin at ^g the house of God: and ⁱ if it first begin at us, what shall the end



When his glory shall be revealed ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. 1-Peter 4:13

v10 Manifold grace: Gk. *multi-coloured*. Our *variety* of gifts must be shared with others: **Rom 12:6-8; 1 Tim 6:17-19**.

4:12-19 PARTAKERS OF CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS

v11 Oracles of God: God's Word is our only authority and must be central to all our teaching: **Jn 14:10,24**. **God glorified:** The whole focus of our lives is to give glory to God: **Eph 2:8-9**. **Praise and dominion for ever and ever:** Also **5:11**. Further emphasised in **Rev 1:6; 4:9,10; 5:14,14; 7:12; 11:15; 22:5**.

v12 Think it not strange: Persecution and trial a normal part of life for believers: **Acts 14:22**. **Fiery trial:** See notes on **1:7**.

v13 Rejoice: See notes on **1:8**. **Partakers of Christ's sufferings:** We come to know Christ and appreciate him more when we go through trials for his sake: **2 Cor 1:5-7; Phil 1:29**. **When his glory shall be revealed:** Gr. *apokalupsis*, often referred to as *apocalypse*. An important word! Final time this word is used prior to **Rev 1:1**. See notes on **Background and Overview**. **Exceeding joy:** The joy is so much greater at the end when the road has been difficult: **Rom 8:18,28; Eph 3:20-21**.

v14 Happy are ye: From Christ's words in **Mt 5:11-12**. The apostles rejoiced in suffering: **Acts 5:41; 2 Cor 1:7-9**. See notes on **3:14**. **Spirit of glory:** Gk. *the glory*. Looking to the glory of Christ's return: **Rom 8:17; 2 Tim 2:10-12; 1 Pet 5:1**. The thief on the cross *literally* suffered with Christ and was promised the Kingdom: **Lk 23:40-43**. This motivated Paul: **Phil 3:8-14,20-21**. **Evil spoken of:** Also **2:12**. They did this of David and Christ: **Psa 41:5-7**. **On your part he is glorified:** Persecuted believers honour him by worthily bearing his name. **v15 Suffer as a murderer:** Don't suffer for doing evil but good, cp. **2:20**.

v16 Not be ashamed: As Paul says in **Rom 1:16; Phil 1:20**. **v17 Judgment:** Believers are judged prior to Armageddon as immortal saints are with Christ when he judges the world: **Deut 33:1-3; Ps 149:4-9; Dan 7:18,26; Zech 14:5; Rev 17:14**.

be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

¹⁸ And ^a if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

¹⁹ Wherefore let them that suffer according to ^e the will of God ^f commit the keeping of their souls to ^h him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

Colour code: Blue (God and Jesus Christ); Red (sin / devil / the world / judgment of wicked); Green (Kingdom); Orange (important words and phrases); Purple (return of Jews to the land); Yellow (practical exhortation). Prepared for Study Week 2016 to the theme "I shall not be ashamed". Acknowledgements: Expositor notes by HP Mansfield, Adelaide YC1991 notes, SW2016 notes, talks by S Dodson, N Badger. Email: acdangerfield@webshield.net.au or www.studyweek.net