

1Peter 11-05-13b

Let's resume our study now in 1st Peter chapter 4. We have seen the first two verses here. Therefore since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves now, because you are part of something larger than yourself and you're looking out for others as you do this and it really blends in the context doesn't it because we've been looking at interactions between people here are these Jews of the Diaspora and there they are persecuted. They're having a tough time they are suffering why because they are trying to live a Christian life in the midst of a paganized secularized perverted culture and if you do any traveling and visiting over in the the Roman Greek Archaeological ruins and stuff over there and they show you the little artifacts and figurines and frescoes and things left over from this period of history and and several hundred years each side of it Those were some seriously messed up people they had nothing but hedonism as a driving force in their culture and it shows and here you've got these people who have these are your faithful Jews who recognize the Messiah and have come to faith and are Christian Jews and they're in this milieu.

They're out there in the Acro bustia the uncircumcised the unwashed They're trying to maintain and trying to raise their children in it. They're just in this sewer culturally and Peter says listen You've got to arm yourself You've got to fortify yourself and you've got to stick together on this thing because in isolation You're probably going to be surrounded and overwhelmed. You've got to have that shield overlapping you and you've got to hold your shield up and overlap the next individual and Try to avoid drifting to the right all the time so since Christ Suffered for us in the earthly realm You have the same mind in the earthly realm What do we know about the Lord Jesus? Who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross despised the shame? Seated at the right hand of the father He has been glorified and Peter says the same thing by the way We know Peter was familiar with the letters of Paul because he talks about him remember he says the some men take the writings of of Paul and Rest them twist them to their own destruction He is familiar with Pauline theology Although he's got an emphasis and a and a perspective and an understanding That's all his own as we're going to see he uses Sarx in a little bit different way than Paul does And it's one of the things to keep in mind We're so prone because we're used to the way Paul writes when we see the flesh We think well, that's the fallen flesh of the you know, the carnal mind can't understand the the things of the spirit This is the Sarx And Influencing the noose and so on.

Well Peter's got a different take on it. He's talking about a realm He's saying in the flesh in this earthly life when you're rubbing elbows with everybody else that's in the flesh Christ suffered when he was here on earth in his incarnation. You've got to have the same attitude he had and Arm yourself and then it says not Hot I you've Heard enough Greek over the years to know that this is the conjunction often translated either that or because You have it translated in your New King James For which basically has the idea of because And then we have the one having suffered.

This is an aorist participle from patho as in pathology pathos Having suffered in the flesh sarky from Sarx has Stopped sin Pet pow tie Amartya, that's what you've got here. PayPal tie. This is your perfect Let me make sure I'm not telling you something wrong here Yeah, it's your perfect passive indicative The PEP at the beginning anytime it doubles the first deal.

You always know that's a perfect so has Stopped has we get pause from this the word pause Hit the little double bar on your player and it quits right there well I'm not going to go into a lot of Agony over the Greek here. I will just mention for those of you that have a pathological interest that we have here a Gnostic aorist normally, what's the rule? What's the rule about the aorist participle action of the aorist participle? Precedes the action of the main verb. This is different because the main verb is a perfect which is in the past and This just to cut a long story short.

This is a gnostic aorist a gnostic aorist states a an axiomatic truth Okay So the one having suffered in the flesh has has ceased from sin Has or the translation we're going to use is through with but Hathi here doesn't mean because It means this is the content the when it says arm yourself with the same mind the mind is not noose It's not Lagos or some kind of a logical thing this is annoying on and Sometimes it's translated insight or understanding but Again to cut a long story short and a lot of research short when you have annoying on followed by Hathi Hathi tells you what the mind is It doesn't say why you have the mind. It says if it says arm yourself with this mind. Here's the mind that So if I was going to translate this for you, this is how I would put it I would say since Therefore looking back at chapter 2 and 3 therefore looking at this whole authority structure rubbing elbows with people Being willing to suffer for the sake of Christ even under authority and so on Since Christ suffered for us in the realm of the flesh Arm yourselves with the same mind which is that the one Suffering in the flesh is through with sin.

Why am I able to put up with this suffering? What is my rationale? I am doing this because I don't want to go back into the realm of sin I am suffering because I have made the decision Like Jesus Christ, I don't want to have anything to do with sin. And if I suffer for it, so be it What did he say in chapter 3 if you suffer for righteousness sake? Happy are ye You don't want to be beaten for doing something wrong be beaten If you're gonna be beaten be beaten for doing something, right? And if you have to suffer, isn't it great if you're suffering for righteousness, so this is the same idea Here's the mind arm yourself hop leads. Oh hop leads.

Oh my Let's form ranks. Let's close up and let's protect each other and let's march forward toward the objective with the mind that Jesus had that I am through with sin and If this costs me something I'll put up with it if I Suffer for this so be it. I would rather suffer than fall back into sin I would rather suffer than be a participant in sin.

Jesus Christ has suffered for sin Why do I want to add to his burden? Why would I want to go in and and go down that road? You know Paul takes a different tack on this. He says, you know grace is greater than all our sin Well, shall we sin that grace may abound? Megan oita far be it from me. We're not gonna we don't want to go back into sin The one who has died to sin is free of

it Same idea here arm yourself with this mind.

So here's the thing this is really practical because it's one thing for me to sit up here and say hey, you know get your shield up and don't sin and persevere and suffer and God be with you go forth and suffer away But how do you actually do it? When you're getting static when you're getting grief when people are passing you over for promotion When they are Disrespecting you when they are making you pay it is costing you something to stick with what's right Our kids in school if they earn their grades It costs them because they're going to be in the middle of the pack or lower because everybody else is Cooperating to graduate and they're cheating Given the test answers out Finding out, you know the guy that took it online. Well, here's what you do. Here's the questions I wrote them down, you know, I I took screenshots of my screen on the online test And here's here's what they are and they pass this stuff around.

So everybody's grades are good Well, you do it the old-fashioned way you earn your grade. Well, you're you're down in the pack You didn't do as well because you didn't have a preview of the test You didn't get to to only do one sixth of the work and the other five people Pass around their Sixth of the work and everybody gets the whole thing done in one sixth of the time You did all six parts by yourself and it took you time and you were maybe you didn't get finished and you had to do All the work yourself. The teacher has adjusted Well, it seems like people don't need so much time on this lab because I sign it and 30 minutes later.

They're all done So, okay labs over. Well, the person that's doing themselves is out of time I'm telling you factual things from my daughter's experience They suffer because they have integrity and they try to earn their grades themselves and this is just a tip of the iceberg example of what our Generation is in for and the subsequent generations are in for because we are in a Degenerate and increasingly degenerate society. So we say well, why should I do that? Why don't I just tell my kids? Look, here's how you get by you get in there get right in with the rest of them scrap with them fight for your grades do whatever it takes compromise where you have to give in where you have to if you're gonna survive and you're gonna get ahead you Got a you got to get down there and scrap with the pack.

You know, you got a you got to do what they do Be what they are Act like they act you got to be accepted You got to get it, you know You got to compete on their ground and at their level and with their tools If you don't you're going to suffer you'll be ostracized. You'll be vilified you'll be Ignored your teachers will think you're a troublemaker Because you're the one of the few people in the in the class that's doing what they're supposed to do It's very frustrating as a parent So what mind do you arm yourself with when this? Just as an example when this sort of thing comes up or any other thing that the unbelieving faithless believing world throws at us I am going to stick with this Because the alternative is sin and I'm through with sin the Lord Jesus Christ died for my sins He has freed me of sin. I'm through with it.

I don't want to go back to Egypt I don't want to go back to the leeks and garlies I don't want to go

back to the misery and the ashes in the mouth that sin represents. I'm through with it It's just like when people break a bad habit, you know, how do you get the dedication the commitment? I am through with fill in the blank. I'm through with that.

I don't want to see it I don't want to get near it. I'm done. I've had enough.

I know the misery it causes. I know the uselessness of it I know the expense of it. Whatever.

I Have pep out I on that I am through No more. I am through with sin This is the mind you arm yourself with So when we look at our alternatives, we get tempted to Sink down to that level, you know They always say don't argue with a fool because he'll drag you down to his level and beat you with experience Don't be dragged into sin don't get down on the sinful level. They're better sinners than we are We'll lose down there.

Anyway elevate Mount up with wings as Eagles. I am through with sin so that verse 2 With a view toward this is ace, you know that my this is the most wonderful preposition in Greek I think e is it's almost always translated Because or so that but it's it's unto its literal meaning is into But when you're talking about ideas, it's unto or with a view toward Peter says you people Repent and be baptized ace with a view toward the remission of sins totally solves that alleged Difficulty of interpretation to be baptized for remission. It's not for sins It's with a view toward looking at what God has done Water baptism was the sign ace With a view toward no longer of men desires living in this time in the flesh no longer for the less of men Now when you read this when you're just reading if you sat down and read this for a devotional if you looked it over this past week I would I Would guess that when you got to this verse you said well arm yourself with the same mind I'm suffering I don't understand this cease from sin thing But I get the part that says that I no longer live for the less of men I've got to eat these less of men out of me I got to quit giving in to my craving for this out of the other got to quit giving into temptation yield not to temptation For yielding us in etc.

Got to get rid of that. It's not what this is saying. Although that's a worthy wonderful sentiment That's not what this is saying notice He who is arming himself with the mind is singular, right? arm yourself with the same mind because he singular who has Suffered in the flesh no make errors parteciple.

He singular has ceased from sin That he no longer should live the rest of his life for the desires I would change lusts to desires people are Manipulative people like you to do what they want you to do if you are the lone Virgin in the group if you are the lone non smoker in the group if you are the lone non drinker in the group if you Are the lone non drug? participant in the group people decide they must get you To no longer be different in that regard. We've got to we're going to make a project out of you This is our desire We want you to quit being different. We want you to quit being odd So when I had chickens I've told you this before one chicken Snag a feather and get a little blood spot the other chicken say that chicken is odd and they would peck that chicken

to death They would kill it And of course as soon as another one pecks the little blood spot now There's a bigger blood spot, and then they all just go get into a frenzy.

It's different. It's different It's not a chicken anymore, and they would kill it I lost double handful of hens that were murdered by their fellow hens because they Unfortunately had a little small wound and you can't stop them. I mean, they're just You know what's the size of a chicken brain? well Same thing here same thing here You arm yourself and say I am through with sin So that you know with a view toward no longer living to please people no longer living in the light of their desires This is what they want.

They want you to conform. They don't want you to be different They don't want you to to be a rebuke. They don't want you.

Oh you you're not any different than us You know they judge you by themselves, and they say you know you're putting on some kind of a holier-than-thou Act here, you're not holy come on You know and there's this desire to pull down anyone who looks like they're living a life In the light of God's Word and God's plan. It's it's an annoyance it is if they just want to make a project out of you and Peter says look you scattered Gentiles Scattered among the Gentiles you Jewish Christians. I know this is happening in your communities They're looking at you, and they don't like you.

They don't want you there and Their desire is either to make you conform or to drive you out one or the other But you don't have to live your life with a view toward their desires Well, what do I do if I conform? I'm gonna lose my personal integrity if I don't conform. I'm gonna be I'm suffering That's not your consideration anymore Your consideration is I am through with sin. I look at the Lord Jesus who died for my sins Why would I fall into that I will do anything to not? Get back into this sin thing that Christ has delivered me from that's your mind.

That's what you're armed with and that frees you from Susceptibility to the desires the epithumia of the Anthropoid here Ace with a view toward no longer. I'm not even looking at what they want doesn't matter what they want I am on the narrow road. I'm shooting for the straight gate No longer living the rest of his time in the flesh in this world And why does he keep repeating this in the flesh in the flesh in the flesh because this is temporary Jesus earthly ministry was relatively short when you look at the span of human existence This life is short when you look at the span of human existence.

It's just in the flesh It's your time in the flesh you're saved and you still got some time in the flesh Stick with it. Don't be diverted. Don't fall back into sin.

Don't live the time in the flesh With a view toward the desires of men, but for the will of God, isn't this what he's been saying for the last two chapters? Disregard Deinvest pull out of these human Ambitions and human desires and human situations. I've got to get even I've got to I've got to I've got to Persist I've got to win. I've got to Retaliate I've got to do something.

I can't I can't let this stand. This is just so unjust and unfair I've got to do something says look in the flesh You've got to Be more heavenly minded For verse 3 we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles Enough stop already is is this point? When we walked in lewdness lust drunkenness revelries drinking parties and abominable Idolatries in regard to these they think it's strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dispensation Dissipation speaking evil of you you see how this all flows. This is their will You're strange if you don't run in our flood of dissipation.

Come on and they're Putting on pressure. This is their desire What do we tell our kids? You know, this is your brain. This is your brain on drugs It the issue is God the issue is sin the issue is righteousness The issue is the work of Jesus Christ on the cross that delivers us and frees us from those things That's the issue not personal consequences in many cases if you try to make an argument for personal consequences You're gonna lose because it's easier to go along.

You'll be popular. You'll be accepted. You'll get high You'll have a big party.

You'll be like everybody else and In the short term that looks like the way to go. It's not not a very good argument The actual argument is the Lord Jesus Christ and this is where Peter is going look at this They will give an account to him who is ready to judge the quick and the dead the living in the dead Everybody that has ever lived and those that are currently still writing the record of their life They're all going to be judged they this is the Gentiles. These are the ones trying to pull them into dissipation This is a reference to the great white throne judgment Everybody Will give an account and this is a reminder as well as a comfort to those who are persecuted Peter says don't forget these people that are giving you grief God is going to hold them to account for every single thing They do to you don't think that it's going unnoticed.

Don't think that there will be no retribution or no recompense and This harks back to Jesus going to those disobedient spirits if Jesus can go read the riot act to angels that were Disobedient. What do you think? He's going to do to these pagan Gentiles that are trying to get you to run into a flood of dissipation Arm yourself with this mind. I'm through with sin.

I don't want to be anywhere near God's judgment on these things Not to say by the way that the great white throne judgment is a judgment on sin But what is it the books are open and they're judged according to their works? Whatsoever is not of faith is Whatsoever is not of faith is Sin Whatsoever is not of faith is sin works that are not of faith are by definition Sin, so when they're judged according to their works and their unbelievers, they are a pastilla Guess what their works are not of faith ergo. They are sin They will give an account to him who's ready to judge the living and the dead For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead You can't believe well, you probably can't believe the weird stuff that has come out of this that there's a second chance They preach the gospel to the dead give them another shot at salvation. Not at all.

I could give you a bunch of Greek To justify this similar constructions in extra biblical Greek just take my word for it What this is talking about is that the gospel was preached to them while they were alive They had their chance while they were alive The gospel was preached if it was trying to say that you get another chance This would be present tense for this reason The gospel is preached to those who are dead right because people are dying all the time What about the guy that died yesterday? It's gospel preached to him after he's dead was Still being preached every time somebody dies, they're preaching the gospel to him giving him another chance. No in their lifetime those who died in the flood That Peter has already referred to they heard the gospel Noah preacher of righteousness remember they heard it the gospel was preached the good news of pre was preached the opportunity for deliverance was offered and That's the reason it was preached to them So that they might be judged Because once you are given the information and you have the opportunity to accept it if you reject it you are accountable You're accountable This is the reason God gave them the gospel Because they will be held to account for what they rejected can't hold somebody to account If if they get no No gospel So the question comes up. What about all those China men? What about all of those? Muck-luck Alaskans up there.

What about all the aborigines in the far-off places during the time of Israel? you know there was China and going back to the you know Merc of prehistory and a lot of other places and if God is only in the pillar of cloud and fire for Israel What about all these other people? all these aboriginal untouched Unevangelized what about them? God the Holy Spirit Addresses the heart of every man God has put eternity in the heart of every man What been known of God is manifest in creation so that they are without excuse There is the witness in the testimony now What if they say Yes, tell me more. Oh God Well now, what do you do? Let's say that you've got One ho fat. He's a little China man back there in the Ming Dynasty somewhere Mung ho fat.

He says oh, yes Lord Tell me more. I would really love to get whatever this salvation thing is that you've convicted me about well, I In the time of the Israelites, well, were there Israelite missionaries that trekked across the vast expanses of Europe and got all the way over to China found Mung ho fat or whatever. I named him and and said here you go.

Here's the law of Moses here You can join Israel. Here's a little bit of dirt from the Holy Land. You know, you just keep this and you know Here's the fee schedule do what you can, you know, I realize you can't come back with me come to Israel Well, God, I think, is much more efficient than that.

God in the providences and the omniscience of eternity past said, You know what? I'm going to save myself some trouble. If Wong Ho Fat is going to go positive at the point of God consciousness, here's what I'm going to do. He's not going to be a Chinaman.

I'm going to let him be born into the tribe of Reuben or into the tribe of Simeon or into the tribe of Manasseh or into the tribe of Levi or Judah. And when he says, Yes, tell me more, that's right there. I believe that this is why Paul says, All Israel shall be saved.

Why? Because all the people that had any glimmer of interest at the point of God consciousness, God said, Guess what? Because I know that's going to be your attitude, I'm going to save myself some trouble. And instead of trying to send angels or missionaries in days when travel is nearly impossible to those reaches and extents, they don't even know about the new world. What about all the aboriginal Native Americans and so on? How are they going to get the word? It's not the Mormon answer, by the way.

God says, No, I'll just conveniently organize these people as the descendants and offspring of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all of the unbelievers who aren't going to accept. I'll put them in China. I'll put them in these jungles and mountains and ice places and let them go be warned, be fed and do what they want to do.

Be animists and be star worshippers and astrologers and whatever they want to be. But these people that I know ahead of time, God makes our provision well in advance of our lifetime. He knows what family we're going to be born into.

Why wouldn't he? It's convenient. Now they are without excuse. They are accountable because the gospel has been preached.

The gospel is preached to the unbelievers by God, the Holy Spirit, who witnesses to them through nature, through eternity in their hearts, and every single one of them that was outside the purview, outside the realm of influence, the sphere of communication of Israel in the Old Testament, I believe, was disinterested from the word go, would have been. You could fly them to heaven and plant them in front of God's throne and they would make the same decision as Satan. I don't like this.

I don't want to be subject to a God. I want to do my own thing. And they would chafe and they would bridle and they would be miserable under God.

I said, fine. I'm not going to put you in Israel. I'm not going to put you under the feasts and wear on you.

Go to China. Make some guys out of terracotta and serve the emperor. Go to Japan.

Get your head chopped off by a samurai. Go to some aboriginal jungle and wear a loincloth and worship trees and do whatever you want to do. God puts people where they want to be, just like in Romans chapter 1. He turns them over to what they choose.

All God did is, for purposes of convenience and communication, I believe, put people where they needed to be so that they could get the information and be accountable. Those to whom much is given, much is required. So you've got people in Israel who are positive.

Well now, you've got the law. You've got the prophets. You've got the writings.

You are accountable because you've got the information. And it began to expand and you have the Rahabs and the Uriahs and the Naaman, the Syrians. By the time they start dispersing, as the world gets larger, as civilization gets bigger, so does the influence and the spread of the knowledge of the God of creation.

So all of that to say, for this reason the gospel was preached to those who are dead. Everybody that's dead has heard the gospel. No dead people have not heard the gospel and need to hear it later, with the possible exception of those who died too young to understand it.

What's going to happen with them? Well, what does God say? You look at the millennial kingdom, where do all these children come from? If Israel is resuscitated and if the church is resurrected, where are the children coming from that play with the lions and the lambs and stick their hands in the snake holes and who a hundred years later are said to have died in their youth? Where do they come from? I think anybody before the age of accountability, I think God brings them back and says, look, you're going to finish out your in the flesh time and you're going to get the same shot as everybody else. Everybody gets the gospel, everybody has a chance to make their decision, don't have to go to the heavenly realms, no automatic salvation for infants. And these people that say, well, you know, I don't want to gamble and roll the dice and take a chance my child might reject Jesus so I'll just kill him now because all babies are saved.

Not at all. They're just going to come back and have to make their decision during the thousand years of the millennium. People get so upset because God sent Joshua and the Israelites in to slay the Canaanite children.

It's a blessing. Instead of growing up in a godless pagan Molech worshiping culture, they're going to come back and be adopted into families and grow up in the millennial kingdom and they'll get their chance and they may reject and they may accept, but there will be that accounting at the end of that thousand years, sheep and goats. It's all there.

God knows ahead of time. The gospel is preached to those who are dead. Everybody has heard it.

Everybody will hear it before their death is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment. And you say, well, it seems like that's two deaths for the Canaanite babies. Talk to me later.

So that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit. Judged according to men in the flesh, live according to God in the spirit. Remember that? In the flesh, in the spirit for the Lord Jesus? Put to death in the flesh, made alive in the spirit.

Same thing here. Judged according to men. Some people say, oh, wasn't he a wonderful benefactor? Wasn't he a great philanthropist and charity giver? Al Capone gave hundreds of thousands of dollars to charity.

Oh, wasn't he a wonderful man? Judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit. God will decide what rank and what order and how bright your star shines and to what extent you reflect his glory, to what extent you inherit overcomer blessings in the ages to come, whether or not you live at all according to the spirit. So to me at least, and I hope I've been able to somehow kind of get this across, it really makes a great argument.

It is motivation. It is encouragement that during the time when we are grating and suffering under cultural oppression and harassment or worse, and I keep thinking about Dr. Eddy over there in Indonesia and other places around the world, it's a lot worse for them than it is for us. We think we're suffering, and I think I'm embarrassed to say I'm suffering compared to some of the things people go through elsewhere in the world.

But whatever our suffering is, it's real to us. It's a burden for us. This is the armament of the spirit.

This is the mind that Jesus had. I am not going to enter the realm of sin. I am through with that.

I am looking ahead to the judgment of God. God will deal with these people. Let God righteously judge and recompense what they have done.

He is going to judge the living and the dead. They will have to give an account for what they're doing. I'm going to have to give an account for what I'm doing.

I want to do what is pleasing in his sight. I want to be as pleasing in his sight as the Lord Jesus is who is seated at his right hand. So I think that's the substance of the argument, and that takes us through the first six verses of chapter four.

So we'll pick up in verse seven next time, and we'll close here in a word of prayer. Father, thank you for the truth of your word. Thank you for the clarity and the power with which you communicate to us your plan and purpose, your provision, and most of all, the glorious work and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We thank you for him. We thank you for his intercession on our behalf, the example that he has set for us in laying aside his deity and living this life in the flesh with the very same provisions and the very same tools that you have given to us, not living by bread alone, but every word that comes from you, the fortification and encouragement and ministry of the Holy Spirit. We thank you for these things and pray that given these wonderful resources, we will be ever mindful of our opportunity and our potential, and we will see clearly day-to-day the challenges and the decisions that will reflect your glory and be pleasing in your sight as we seek to live in the light of this wonderful exhortation from the Apostle Peter.

We pray these things in Jesus' name, amen.