

## DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

*“Armed For Suffering”*

**1 Peter 4:1-2**

**APRIL 22 – APRIL 28, 2007**

**THE LORD'S DAY** –This week we will start a two part study on the first **six verses** of **chapter 4**. Peter, through the Holy Spirit inspired text is going to give us some encouraging and very practical news regarding our suffering as believers in this hostile world. We will see we need to be prepared and ready which is possible through the equipping of God's Word and by His Spirit. Read our text in **1 Peter 4:1-6**.

*What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: Ask God to teach you from His Word this week.*

**MONDAY** –The chapter begins with that familiar word “*Therefore...*” This word points us back to all the previous things mentioned by the Apostle Peter in this letter. It specifically reminds us of what we have just seen in the example of Christ “*since Christ suffered in the flesh*”. We must always keep in mind that we as believers, children of God, we are to follow our example of “*the man Christ Jesus*”. As Christians we have been “*baptized*” (immersed) into Christ and are one with Him by faith. This means we are at times called to suffer as He did, “*in the flesh*”. Suffering is real for the believer but as we will see we are always victorious through our Savior Jesus. Read **John 15:20-25, 1 Peter 2:21**.

*What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: Thank God for the privilege of being united to Jesus and ask Him for strength to follow His perfect example.*

**TUESDAY** –As we said yesterday Peter tells us that Christ “*suffered in the flesh*”. The pinnacle of His suffering took place on the cross where He died to fulfill the Divine plan of redemption. It is hard for us as sinful people to understand how a perfect man, Jesus actually suffered. We

Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITTAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)
Lord's Day						
Mon						
Tue						
Wed						
Thu						
Fri						
Sat						

**Matthew 6:13**

many times suffer as a result of our own sins but Christ “*knew no sin*” (**2 Corinthians 5:21**). He truly suffered “*unjustly*”. The Bible says that Jesus was made a curse for us who have been born again. He became an “*offering for sin*” and the incredible fact is He NEVER sinned. Jesus felt the fullest force of unjust suffering, paying for sin that was not His own and therefore secured forgiveness and heaven with all its glory for all who would believe. Read **Isaiah 53:10, Acts 2:23, Galatians 3:13, Revelation 5:8-14**.

*What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: Meditate on Christ’s unjust suffering for your sin as a believer. Thank Him today from a grateful heart.*

**WEDNESDAY** –Peter tells us we are to “*arm ourselves also with the same mind...*” He is saying we as believers should have the same thought and understanding Jesus had when He suffered. That is we should contemplate that our suffering, even to the point of death will just produce for us the greatest victory. As John MacArthur has said in his commentary on this passage, “The greater the righteous suffering, the greater is the reward”. We are also to have the mindset that we may be asked to give our very physical life for Christ just as He did in obedience to the Father’s plan. I know this is not a topic many today want to speak about but it is the very attitude that Christ said was necessary to be a true believer and follower of Him. Read **Matthew 10:37-39, Luke 9:23-26, 2 Corinthians 4:8-12**.

*What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: Ask God today to examine your heart and see if you are really willing to suffer however He may choose. Ask Him for greater strength and faith to follow Him and to help you live “counting the cost”.*

**THURSDAY** –The last phrase in **verse 1** is not the easiest to get a total understanding of with just a passing reading. The text says, “...*for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin...*” There is some differing opinion as to what Peter is referring to here. Some see in this phrase a further elaboration of yesterday’s topic where, when a person has “*suffered in the flesh*” (ultimately in death physically) they have reached the point of “*ceasing*” or a final end from sin. That is correct but I believe the text is saying much more than that as well. The following verse explains in more detail the believers’ position of being dead to sin here in this life. We do however understand that the worst suffering that can happen to us as believers (death) is actually a precious thing as we will then reach the end in our struggle with sin.

Read **Philippians 1:21, 2 Timothy 4:18, Hebrews 12:2**.

*What principles in these verses are applicable to my life today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: Thank You Jesus that we have the guarantee of a ceasing of sin entirely one day because of Your victorious triumph.*

**FRIDAY** –Peter now explains in **verse 2** the position a Christian has in relationship to sin. We, being united to Christ in His death have had a break from sin’s dominion and power over us. Do not assume we no longer struggle with sin because we do; but we have now the promise of victory over sin as we walk in the Spirit. This is what Paul expressed for us in **Romans 6:7**. There is such a union between Christ and the believer that Jesus’ death on the cross *secured* the death of the believer to the world. A Christian becomes *dead* in a moral sense—dead to this world, by being “*crucified with Christ*”. Read of this reality in **Galatians 2:20, Colossians 2:20, 3:3, 2 Timothy 2:11**.

*What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: Thank You Jesus that as a believer I have power over sin through Your perfect life and death. Help me to understand fully my position “in You” and walk according to Your Word and Spirit.*

**SATURDAY** –**Verse 2** focuses on what the pursuit of the believers’ life here on earth should be. Since we are dead to sin we are to “...*live the rest of his time in the flesh...for the will of God*.” John Piper comments on **verse 2** like this: “When you suffer for what’s right, it’s a sign that you have renounced sinful human desires and embraced the will of God as a higher value. So for the sake of righteousness and freedom from sin arm yourselves with this purpose.” Peter is saying the final goal of redemption is to rescue us from being dominated by wicked lusts, and to bring us to be conformed wholly to the will of God. Read **2 Corinthians 5:15, Galatians 5:16-17, 2 Timothy 2:22**.

*What principles in these verses are applicable to your life today?*

*Suggestion for prayer: Dear God, help me to live obediently by following Your Word which explains to me Your will and may I yield daily to You Holy Spirit.*