

**1  Arm yourself with  
the ultimate weapon**

1 Peter 4:1-6

**2  1 Peter 4:1-3**

*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; 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. 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:*

**3  1 Peter 4:4-6**

*Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.*

**4  Ralph Venning**

In his book *The Plague of Plagues* (1669), he wrote:

*In general, sin is the worst of evils, the evil of evil and indeed the only evil. Nothing is so evil as sin, nothing is evil but sin. As the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us, so neither the sufferings of this life nor of that to come are worthy to be compared as evil with the evil of sin. No evil is displeasing to God or destructive to man but the evil of sin. Sin is worse than affliction, than death, than the devil, than hell.*

**5  Ralph Venning (2)**

*Affliction is not so afflictive, death is not so deadly, the devil is not so devilish, hell is not so hellish as sin is. This will help to fill up the charge against its sinfulness especially as it is contrary to and against the good of man. ...The four evils I have just named are truly terrible and from all of them everyone is ready to say, 'Good Lord, deliver us! Yet none of these nor all of them together are as bad as sin. Therefore our prayers should be more to be delivered from sin and if God hear no prayer else, yet as to this we should say. 'We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord; '*

**6  Time travel with Peter****7  The past****8  Arm yourselves with the past**

- "Forasmuch" or "therefore" – points back to 3:18-22
- Peter is writing to people or suffering or who were about to suffer.
- Christ is the supreme example of how suffering can be triumphant (3:18-22). In fact, it is in His suffering that He gained His greatest victory.

**9  What really happened at Calvary**

- 1 Suffering of Christ
- 2 Victory of Christ
- 3 • Unjustly executed as a criminal

- Punished as a result of hatred
  - Rejected by those He loved
  - Dying, the just for the unjust
- 4**
- Triumphing over sin
  - Triumphing over the demonic forces of hell
  - Satisfying the justice of God
  - Gaining the ultimate supremacy to be seated at God's right hand (3:22)

#### 10 **Why I should hate sin**

- What did my sin do to Christ? 4:1 -- *Christ has suffered in the flesh.*
  - It killed Him. It cost Him His life.
- Can we enjoy sin when we know what it did to Him?
  - He was spotless and perfect was made SIN for us when our sins were put on Him.
  - He bore in His body our sins and He was made a curse for us (*Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.*)

#### 11 **Why I should hate sin (2)**

- Our sins made Christ experience separation from His Father for the first and only time -- *My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*
- Our sins put Him on a cross and nails were hammered through His limbs and thorns crushed into His brow and spit dripped off His body and a sphere was rammed into His side.
- When you realize all of that and all of that was caused by sin, it ought to help you to hate sin, right? If you love Christ.

#### 12 **Arm yourselves with purpose**

- We are to arm ourselves with the same mind (attitude) or purpose as Christ had in His sufferings.
- What is that purpose?
  - Be willing to suffer in the flesh knowing that it produces potentially the greatest triumph.
  - It is better to suffer for Christ now than to suffer with the world when it is judged.
  - In 3:18, suffering = death.

#### 13 **The Present**

#### 14 **Prepare for battle**

- We are to arm ourselves (*hoplisasthe*, used only here in the NT – see Ephesians 6:11)
- Why? Life is a battle weapon.
- What is the ultimate weapon?
  - It is to have the same mind as Christ. That means we are to have the same principle, same idea, same thought, as Jesus Christ.
  - And what is that thought? It is the knowledge that in dying to your selfish ambitions – and being willing to die for Christ – that there is triumph.

#### 15 **John 16:1-7**

*I have said these things to you so that you will not fall away. They will expel you from the synagogue, but an hour is coming that everyone who kills you will think they are offering service*

*to God. And they will do these things because they do not know the Father or me. But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you about them. And I have not said these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and none of you is asking me, 'Where are you going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go away. For if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.*

16  **Are Christians suffering today?**

- According to The Pew Research Center, over 75% of the world's population lives in areas with severe religious restrictions (and many of these people are Christians).
- Also, according to the United States Department of State, Christians in more than 60 countries face persecution from their governments or surrounding neighbors simply because of their belief in Jesus Christ.

17  **What we often ignore**

18  **What will you do?**

- If you are persecuted and your life is threatened, you could just recant your faith in bailout.
- But is that really an option?
- Voluntarily accept the potential of death as part of the Christian life. Should we not be willing to die for Jesus Christ who died for us?

• 2 Timothy 4:6 -- *For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.*

19  **Matthew 10:38-39**

- *And whoever does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. The one who finds his life will lose it, and the one who loses his life because of me will find it.*
- If we are unwilling to die for Christ, we are not worthy to be His disciples.
- Those to whom He said these words knew precisely what he was saying. A cross was where people got executed.
- Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:31 – "I die daily"

20  **2 Corinthians 4:8-12**

*We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you.*

21  **Really, the ultimate weapon?**

- Why is being willing to die for Jesus Christ the ultimate weapon?
- If the worst the world can do is to kill you, and you know that is the best possible thing that can happen, you have ultimately thwarted the world and the devil. It is the greatest weapon you possess.
- When a Christian dies, they are eternally free from sin.

22  **Death frees us from sin**

- It is true that Christ was not a sinner.

- However, He came in the likeness of sinful flesh (Romans 8:3).
- On the cross, *He was made sin* (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- 1 Peter 2:24 says, *He bore our sin.*
- He came in the likeness of sinful flesh. He came to receive the worst evil that sinful men could do to Him. He went to the cross and was made sin and bore sin but when He died, He was ... what?... free from sin. And all of that which He suffered in His incarnation came to an end.
- Likewise, in death, we are free from sin. So living in an attitude that we are willing to die for Christ loosens the grip of sin on our life.

23  **Intimacy = Into me, see**

24  **Why I am grateful for pain**

- To be honest, I would prefer not to hurt all the time.
- But it has brought some benefits:
  - Forces me to my knees daily
  - Makes me look forward to heaven instead of holding tightly to earth's amusements
  - Reminds me of the suffering of Christ for me (and caused by my sins)
  - Reminds me of how my sin hurts the heart of God
  - Has decreased my desires for the things of this world and made me long the freedoms and joys I will have in heaven.

25  **Sin dwells in our flesh**

- Romans 7:5 -- *For when we were in the flesh, sinful desires were working through the law in our members, to bear fruit for death.*
- Romans 7:18 -- *For I know that good does not live in me, that is, in my flesh. For the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.*
- Romans 7:23 -- *but I observe another law in my members, at war with the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that exists in my members.*
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26  **But in death, we get freedom**

- 1 Corinthians 15:42 -- *Thus also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.*
- 1 Corinthians 15:49 -- *And just as we have borne the image of the one who is made of earth, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.*
- The sting of death is sin. But in the resurrection, the sting is removed!
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27  **Make sure you understand...**

- I am not advocating suicide or the mutilation of your flesh, as some have done past.
- Rather, we need to take Peter's encouragement to realize that we have already died with Christ the death of our own physical bodies is inevitable.
- The only thing worth living for is what is eternal.
- Every time we choose to die to the flesh and live to Christ, we participate in triumph.
- In short, we all need to live in a perspective of eternity – and not a focus on the things of this

world.

28  **For what do I live?**

- 1 Peter 4:2 -- *in order to live the remaining time in the flesh no longer for human desires, but for the will of God*
- I am to shun the lusts of the flesh and pursue the will of God.
- The goal of my life is freedom from sin. Death will free me from sin. My pursuit now should be to be as free from sin as I possibly can.
- So for the rest of my time in the flesh, I don't want to pursue the lust of men, but the will of God.

29  **John MacArthur**

- *Now, since that is our goal and since that is our destiny, then we don't fear suffering because the worst that suffering can do is kill us and give us the best, the goal of our life. Bring us into sinless perfection. Now if you ever happen to be being burned at the stake, crucified upside down, suspended by pins between your ankles, or if you happen to be massacred or whatever and there's a slight chance, very slight I suppose, you can simply remind your persecutors that they are doing you an immense favor for in the process they are bringing you to sinless, perfect glory which is that for which you were saved in the first place and you can give them your deep appreciation for that generous gift which they have rendered in behalf of your eternal perfection.* (2014)

30  **Sin has messed you up!**

- Think about it – sin has messed us up so badly that we won't be totally free from it until we've died. Don't you hate that?
- Paul records his struggles with sin in Romans 7 – sin wars in our flesh against the law of God in our mind.
  - Every time I sin, it creates a new lane on a highway to destruction. It makes the next sin even easier.
  - Paul said this fact made him a wretched man.

31  **What will you do with truth?**

- Will you choose today the attitude of Christ -- that triumph comes when you die to your flesh?
- Will you determine today to play the long game – to live for eternity?
- Will you join me at the altar and commit to God that you will live with Christ's sacrifice and your desire to overcome sin in mind?
- Will you determine to choose righteousness and its eternal benefits over the sin that will enslave you?