Armed for Life

1 Peter 4:1-6
East Berlin Community Church
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Introduction
- Attitudes can either make us or break us!
- Preparation for suffering beings with settling who will be in charge!
- Jesus Christ and Noah as examples of those whose unjust suffering resulted in great blessings and triumph.

Armed for Life
A. ***"Arm yourselves with the same mind"***
    1.   We are at war! Need a battle mentality.

    2.   Armed with the mindset of Jesus Christ
        a.   Description of the "mind of Christ"—Philippians 2:5-11
            1)   Humble servitude and obedience to death
            2)   Understanding that the crown follows the cross
                a)   Resurrection of Jesus Christ
                b)   Ascension and Exaltation—1 Peter 3:22
        b.   We are called to have the same mindset—Luke 9:23; Matt 10
            1)   Humble service—"deny oneself"
            2)   "Taking up the cross daily"—2 Corinthians 4:8-12
            3)   Soldier's mindset—2 Timothy 2:3-4
            4)   Our Triumph – 2 Corinthians 5:2
                a)   Eternal life in heaven
                b)   Victory over death—1 Corinthians 15:54-57

B. **What difference does the *"mind of Christ"* make?**
    1.   In the present, sin must no longer controls!—1 Peter 4:1-4
        a.   Our identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection breaks sin's control over us. –Romans 6:5-11
        b.   Meaning of *"he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin"*?
            1)   Purifying effect of suffering?
            2)   Sinless perfection?
            3)   "Ceased" in the sense of "done with"
        c.   The "change" between "BC and AD"—1 Pet. 4:3; 1 Cor. 6:9-11
        d.   The "change" and former friends—1 Peter 4:4

    2.   Concerning the future, fear no longer controls us—1 Peter 4:5-6
        a.   The fearful judgment awaiting persecutors—2 Thess. 1:6-9
        b.   The fearless future for believers in Christ
            1)   Meaning of *"Gospel preached to those who are dead"*?
                a)   Spiritually dead?
                b)   Second chance?
                c)   Believers who have died, but are now alive.
            2)   Heaven awaits us! Nothing to fear!