

# 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!
  - 1 Peter 3:14-- *"But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."*
  - 1 Peter 3:15-16-- *"sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you the reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed!"*
- Jesus Christ and Noah as examples of those whose unjust suffering resulted in great blessings and triumph.
  - 1 Peter 3:18-- *"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit."*

## Armed for Life

### A. "Arm yourselves with the same mind"

- 1 Peter 4:1-- *"Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin."*
1. **We are at war! Need a battle mentality.**
    - Ephesians 6:10-13-- *"Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."*
  2. **Armed with the mindset of Jesus Christ**
    - a. **Description of the "mind of Christ"**
      - Philippians 2:5-8-- *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."*
      - Philippians 2:9-11-- *"Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*
    - 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-- *"who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him."*
        - Hebrews 10:12-13-- *"After he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool."*

- 1 Corinthians 15:25-26-- *“For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.”*

**b. We are called to have the same mindset**

- Luke 9:23-- *“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”*
- Matthew 10:38-39-- *“He who does not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.”*

1) **Humble service—“deny oneself”**

2) **“Taking up the cross daily”**

- 2 Corinthians 4:8-12-- *“We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you.”*

3) **Soldier’s mindset**

- 2 Timothy 2:3-4-- *“Endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself in the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.”*

4) **Our Triumph**

- 2 Corinthians 5:2-- *“For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”*

a) **Eternal life in heaven**

- 2 Corinthians 5:8-- *“Absent from the body is to be present with the Lord”*
- Revelation 21:4-- *“God will wipe every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”*

b) **Victory over death**

- 1 Corinthians 15:54-57-- *“So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ ‘O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?’ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

**B. What difference does the “mind of Christ” make?**

- 1 Peter 4:1-6-- *“Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you. They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.”*

1. **In the present, sin must no longer controls!**

- 1 Peter 4:1-4-- *“Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and*

abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you."

- a. **Our identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection breaks sin's control over us.**
  - Romans 6:5-11-- *"For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now, if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He dies, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise, you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*
- b. **Meaning of "he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin"?**
  - 1) Purifying effect of suffering?
  - 2) Sinless perfection?
    - 1 John 1:8-- *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."*
  - 3) "Ceased" in the sense of "done with"
- c. **The "change" between "BC and AD"**
  - 1 Peter 4:3-- *"For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries."*
  - 1 Corinthians 6:9-11-- *"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortionists will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. BUT you were washed, BUT you were sanctified, BUT you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."*
- d. **The "change" and former friends**
  - 1 Peter 4:4-- *"In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you."*

## 2. Concerning the future, fear no longer controls us

- 1 Peter 4:5-6-- *"They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit."*
- a. **The fearful judgment awaiting persecutors**
    - 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9-- *"Since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These will be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power."*
  - b. **The fearless future for believers in Christ**
    - 1 Peter 4:6-- *"For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit."*
    - 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!

- Hebrews 12:1-3-- *“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, let you become weary and discouraged in your souls.”*