

I Peter 4:1-11

REVIEW...

- Grace for SUFFERING - **I Peter 3:13-5:14**
 - We should count ourselves BLESSED – when we SUFFER – FOUR reasons!
 - BECAUSE we do not need to be AFRAID like the world – we have a FATHER who provides...
 - BECAUSE it will cause people to ASK - we need to be able to tell them about Jesus...
 - BECAUSE it will bring them SHAME - when we have GOOD conduct in Christ...
 - BECAUSE it is the WILL of God - to SUFFER for doing GOOD!
- The SUFFERING of Jesus...
 - SUFFERED for an example - He SUFFERED once for the sins of men – the Cross!
 - SUFFERED for a purpose – the just for the unjust - that He might [subjunctive] bring us to God!
 - SUFFERED for a season - He now sits at the right hand of the Father!

THE RIGHT MIND...

- **1ST – THE MIND OF CHRIST... vs. 1-2**
 - 1st – ARM yourself... vs. 1
 - Therefore - since Christ suffered for us in the flesh - arm yourselves also with the same mind!
 - THEREFORE – in light of the EXAMPLE Jesus gave to us ...
 - SUFFERING - for the sake of others [the cross] so that they might be saved...
 - ARM [imperative] - only here in NT – to equip and prepare for BATTLE
 - Not physically – we are not to take up ARMS – we are ARM our MIND!
 - MIND [ἐννοια] – 2x in NT – how we THINK – the BATTLE is in our THOUGHTS!
 - The idea is we need to be mentally prepared for the BATTLE...
 - We need to understand that we are in a FIGHT – and get the TOOLS to win it!
 - **II Corinthians 10:4-5** - “The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God... bringing every THOUGHT into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”
 - We are in a BATTLE for the hearts of minds of those who do not know Jesus...
 - Not a battle we fight with knives and guns - we fight by SUFFERING for the lost...
 - We ARM our mind to accept the RIDICULE – face the HARDSHIPS – endure the SHAME...
 - Knowing that it is through our TESTIMONY – people will come to know Christ!
 - **Philippians 2:5** – “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...”
 - 2nd – STOP sinning... vs. 1
 - For he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin!
 - When we SUFFER like Jesus – taking up OUR cross to die to ourselves – **Luke 9:23**
 - The RESULT [passive] of the SUFFERING we go through – is we STOP [cease] sinning...
 - CEASE – to be completely [perfect] set free from the bondage of SIN!
 - BEFORE we came to Jesus – our MINDS were ruled by SIN...
 - We did not SIN because we wanted to – we were SLAVES to SIN...
 - But through our SUFFERING – we have the MIND of Christ...
 - We now have a CHOICE – we are set FREE from SIN!
 - **Romans 6:22** – “Now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life.” [NLT]
 - 3rd - Change of MIND... vs. 2
 - He no longer should live the rest of his time [on earth] for the [desires] of men!
 - Do not miss the key word here – TIME – what do we do with our TIME...

- We ONLY have so much TIME – so much LIFE to spend...
- From the moment we are born – the clock starts ticking – counting down our days!
- The question becomes – what we DO with the LIFE that we are given...
- Do we invest it in our DESIRES [ἐπιθυμία] – the cares of this world and riches...
- If that is how we spend our TIME – we are wasting our most valuable resource – our TIME!
- **Mark 4:19** – “The cares of this world - the deceitfulness of riches - and the DESIRES [ἐπιθυμία] for other things entering in choke the word - and it becomes unfruitful.”
- But for the will of God!
 - What is the WILL of God – to spend TIME and KNOW Jesus – **John 6:29**
 - Are we worried and troubled about MANY things...
 - Rushing around and busy – no TIME to spare – no TIME to sit at Jesus feet...
 - That is why we are worried and troubled – we did not find TIME for Jesus...
 - When we make the TIME to sit at Jesus feet – everything else falls in place!
 - **Luke 10:38-42** - “Jesus answered and said to her – Martha – Martha - you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed [to sit at the feet of Jesus].”
- **2ND – THE MIND OF MAN... vs. 3-6**
 - 1st – Our PAST... vs. 3
 - For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles!
 - We already wasted enough TIME doing the WILL of the GENTILES [unsaved]
 - Our TIME as an UNBELIEVER was defined by having always [perfect] WALKED in:
 - 1 - LEWDNESS – an outrageous and shameless LACK of MORALS!
 - 2 - LUSTS [ἐπιθυμία] – craving or longing for what we do not have – forbidden things!
 - 3 - DRUNKENNESS – only here NT – doing FOOLISH things because of too much WINE!
 - 4 - REVELRIES – describing a riotous - half drunken parade to pagan gods [Mascara]
 - 5 - Drinking PARTIES – only here NT – a party where alcohol is the purpose!
 - 6 - Abominable IDOLATRIES – literally unlawful [Law of God] worship of false gods!
 - A familiar list – **Galatians 5:19-21**
 - Paul gives an almost identical list to the one given here by Peter [many of the same words]
 - Peter calls them the WILL of the GENTILES - Paul calls them the WORKS of the FLESH...
 - Either description - the RESULT of this kind of life is clearly defined!
 - **Galatians 5:21** – “Those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”
 - No wonder we are told we already WASTED enough TIME living for the world...
 - Is it no wonder God allows SUFFERING to WAKE us up – change our MIND...
 - So we realize what life is really all about – redeem the TIME – and start living for Jesus!
 - 2nd – Their PRESENT... vs. 4
 - In regard to these [the way we used to spend our TIME]
 - They think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of [self-indulgence]!
 - THEY - those who are NOT saved – always [present] think we are STRANGE...
 - Because we NO longer RUN with them – in the same FLOOD of self-indulgence...
 - FLOOD – only here NT – pouring out till the container OVERFLOWS...
 - Self-INDULGENCE – only here NT – the negation of the word [σῶζω] – to NOT be saved!
 - The world CANNOT figure out why we are NOT rushing to JOIN them...
 - As they OVERFLOW with SINS that DESTROY them – wasting their TIME!
 - The co-worker who does NOT understand why you will not go to the BAR after work...
 - The friend who does NOT understand why you are committed to your MARRIAGE...
 - The WORLD does NOT have a moral compass – and do NOT understand why we do!
 - Speaking evil of you!
 - Speak EVIL [βλασφημέω] - the word YOU - is in italics...

- Meaning they are not speaking evil of US – their lives BLASPHEME the LORD...
 - This might seem like a FOOLISH thing for them to do – but they are BLINDED...
 - They think it is STRANGE [passive] we do not follow them – they do not see the END!
 - **II Corinthians 4:4** – “The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not - lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ... should shine unto them.”
 - They are HARDENED by their SIN – so they do not want to HEAR the Gospel...
 - Satan uses their SIN to keep people from seeing Jesus – BLIND them to the truth...
 - That his only purpose – is to keep them OUT of heaven!
- o 3rd – Their FUTURE... vs. 5
- They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead!
 - GIVE [ἀποδίδωμι] – accounting term to pay off a DEBT...
 - ACCOUNT [λόγος] – could also be translated as Word [Jesus]
 - To THE one who is ready to judge the LIVING and the DEAD...
 - We will all stand one day before Jesus to be judged!
 - The LIVING...
 - LIVING [spiritually] - those who LIVE for Jesus...
 - **II Corinthians 5:10** – “We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ...”
 - The judgment seat – BEMA seat – not speaking of the judgment of sin...
 - But the award seat - where awards were given to athletes at the Olympics!
 - The Olympic games began in Greece - it was well known event in Biblical times...
 - Every two years the Isthmus games were held in the city of Corinth...
 - Those who competed had to train hard in order to win a laurel [leaf] crown!
 - Living for Jesus is a DAILY choice - it takes work and commitment on our part...
 - We CHOSE to take the TIME to get into the Word - make TIME to pray...
 - We make the TIME to attend Bible studies - grow in our faith...
 - Not so we can earn a temporary CROWN - but an eternal CROWN!
 - **James 1:12** – “He shall receive the crown of life...”
 - The DEAD...
 - DEAD [spiritually] - those who do NOT live for Jesus...
 - Will stand before the WHITE throne - to be JUDGED for how they LIVED their lives...
 - There will be TWO sets of books opened - the BOOKS and the Book of Life!
 - **Revelation 20:11-12** – “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it... And I saw the dead - small and great - standing before God...”
 - If a name is not found written in the Book of Life – the BOOKS are opened...
 - They are then JUDGED according to their LIVES – recorded in the books...
 - Everything they did - every word they said - every thought...
 - Not to see if they will go to heaven or hell – but to show why they will go to hell!
- o 4th – The Gospel... vs. 6
- For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead...
 - They might be judged according to men in the flesh - but live according to God in the spirit!
 - The GOOD news [εὐαγγελίζω] - was preached to the DEAD [spiritually]
 - So they might [subjunctive] be JUDGED here [in the flesh] – realize they are SINNERS...
 - Then they would CHOSE [active] to LIVE for God – in the power of His SPIRIT!
 - We do NOT share Jesus out of some sense of obligation – or for some reward...
 - We share the GOSPEL – because EVERYONE will be JUDGED by God...
 - And we want them to see their sin NOW – and cry out for FORGIVENESS...
 - Rather than at the WHITE throne – and be JUDGED...

- Hell is not temporary – hell is the SECOND death – eternal separation from God!
- 3RD – THE MIND OF THE BELIEVER... vs. 7-11
 - 1st – Near the END... vs. 7
 - But the end of all things is at hand - therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers!
 - It is IMPORTANT we recognize the DAYS we are living in...
 - We are NEAR [ἐγγίζω] the end of ALL things – the RETURN of Jesus Christ...
 - The end is CLOSE – CLOSER today than the day when Peter wrote this!
 - **Romans 13:11** – “Knowing the time - that now it is high time to awake out of sleep. For now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed...”
 - We are in the LAST DAYS – the return of Jesus is CLOSER today than when we were saved...
 - Jesus is coming to rapture the church – take us to heaven - **I Corinthians 15:51**
 - It could happen next week – it could happen today – it could happen right now!
 - 2nd – WHAT to do... vs. 7-10
 - THEREFORE – in light of the DAYS we live in - we are given FOUR things to do:
 - 1 - SERIOUS [σωφρονέω] – compound word – to have a SAVED [σώζω] mind... vs. 7
 - We MUST [imperative] make sure that GOD is in control – guiding our lives...
 - Because what good will it do if we share Jesus with others – only to fall into sin ourselves!
 - 2 - WATCHFUL [νήφω] in prayers – we must [imperative] calm [watchful] – by praying... vs. 7
 - Because when we PRAY our perspective changes - we see other people in a new light...
 - We no longer see lost SINNERS - instead we see our God who is their SAVIOR!
 - 3 – Above all things have [constant] love [ἀγάπη] for one another... vs. 8
 - For LOVE [ἀγάπη] will cover a multitude of sins – **Proverbs 10:12**
 - ABOVE all – meaning this is the MOST important for believers...
 - But it is NOT a command [participle] – because it CANNOT come from us!
 - The LOVE [ἀγάπη] of Jesus put Him on the cross to PAY for ALL of our sins...
 - He is willing to FORGIVE everything we ever did - or will ever do...
 - And when we realize ALL we have been FORGIVEN – it will CAUSE us to FORGIVE others...
 - And when we FORGIVE – that LOVE will mark us as followers of Jesus!
 - **John 13:35** – “All will know that you are My disciples - if you have love for one another.”
 - 4 - Be HOSPITABLE to one another – without grumbling... vs. 9
 - HOSPITABLE [φιλόξενος] – we MUST [imperative] be friendly to strangers...
 - GRUMBLING [imperative] – to COMPLAIN under our breath!
 - There have been times when I am cleaning up the church – I start to COMPLAIN...
 - Why can the people not at LEAST pick up their garbage...
 - And the Lord taps me on the shoulder – who are you doing that for!
 - If we cannot SERVE without COMPLAINING – then we should NOT serve...
 - God does NOT need our help – and God will NOT make us do anything...
 - If we SERVE – we should SERVE out of LOVE – LOVE for God and LOVE for others...
 - Not just LOVING those who know – even more so STRANGERS!
 - 3rd – Use the GIFT... vs. 10
 - As each one has received a gift!
 - GIFT [χάρισμα]- where we get the name CHARISMATIC...
 - Speaking of the supernatural GIFTS that God gives to believers in the church...
 - A total of 23 gifts listed in the NT - **Romans 12 / I Corinthians 12 / Ephesians 4**

- It comes from the root word – [χάρις] meaning GIFT or GRACE...
- The GIFTS are not earned – they are GIVEN to us by the Holy Spirit!
- **I Corinthians 12:11** – “The same Spirit works all these things - distributing to each one individually as He wills...”
- **Minister it to one another!**
 - We all have a GIFT [singular] - at least ONE – that we are to use to MINISTER [διακονέω]
 - We are to ALWAYS [present] use that GIFT to SERVE one another!
 - Not sure what our GIFT is – there is only one way to find out - step out and try...
 - If God has given us a desire to WORSHIP – then step out and SING...
 - If God has given us a desire to TEACH – then step out and SHARE...
 - We will never be sure of what our purpose is – until we step out to find out!
- **As good stewards of the manifold grace of God!**
 - STEWARDS [οἰκονόμος] – a servant in a great house...
 - We have been given our GIFT – as our part in the CHURCH [house] of God...
 - Our GIFT is one of MANY [manifold] the GRACE [χάρις] of God gives...
 - That allows us to work together as the BODY of CHRIST!
 - **I Corinthians 12:12** – “The human body has many parts - but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ.” [NLT]
 - We ALL have our place within the CHURCH – a purpose God gave us by GRACE...
 - Each role is vital for the body of Christ to function properly...
 - If any part is MISSING – or NOT serving – the whole body SUFFERS...
 - We are many different parts – but we all come together as ONE family...
 - Helping each other GROW and MATURE in our walk in Jesus Christ!
- o 4th – HOW we do it... vs. 11
 - [Since] anyone speaks - let him speak as the oracles of God!
 - ORACLES [λόγιον] – 4x in NT – always used to describe the WORD of God!
 - Women use an average of 20k words a day - men use around 7k words...
 - We are going to SPEAK – the key is to make sure WHEN we speak...
 - We SPEAK the ORACLES – the command or Word of God!
 - Our words have NO power – we cannot bring conviction - change hearts...
 - It is ONLY the Word of God that turns SINNERS into SAINTS...
 - If the BIBLE were just an ordinary book – there would be no reason to share it...
 - The last thing people need - is another OPINION...
 - But the Bible is NOT the OPINION of men – it is the ORACLE of God – so SPEAK it!
 - [Since] anyone ministers - let him do it as with the ability which God supplies!
 - ABILITY [ἰσχὺς] – to serve in the STRENGTH that comes from God...
 - SUPPLIES [χορηγέω] – 2x in NT – to be the CHOIR director!
 - In a great orchestra there are many instruments - with different sounds...
 - If they all follow the conductor – then they blend together in beautiful harmony...
 - But if an instruments gets out of tune - does not follow the conductor – disaster!
 - We are ONLY effective in SERVING – when we do NOT do it in our own strength...
 - And When we SERVE each other by following the CONDUCTOR!
- o 5th – WHY we do it... vs. 11
 - In all things God may be glorified [subjunctive] through Jesus Christ...
 - To whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen!
 - If we ARM ourselves with the MIND of Christ – understand the call to SUFFER for others...
 - If we no longer waste our TIME on this world – but long for the WILL of God...
 - If we share the Gospel with a lost world on the verge of eternal judgement...

- If we understand the time is short – and are serious - prayerful - loving to one another...
- Using our GIFTS – and in everything we say and do dependent on Jesus...
- Then our lives WILL bring GLORY to Jesus Christ as we shine for Him!