

May 26, 2024

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

1 Peter 4:1-6

“Stand Up & Stand Out”

“Suffering According to God’s Will – Part 3 – Semper Fidelis”

- I. Foundation: God’s Provision of Salvation (1:1-12)
- II. Exhortation: Our Response to So Great a Salvation (1:13-5:14)
 - A. Sanctification (1:13-2:12)
 - B. Submission (2:11-3:12)
 - C. **Suffering (3:13-4:19)**
 - 1. Fearless (3:13-17)
 - 2. Focused (3:18-22)
 - 3. **Faithful (4:1-6)**

So what?

Discussion & Application:

1. The motto of the U.S. Marine Corps is “**Semper Fi**” or “**Semper Fidelis.**” What does that mean? Why did they choose it? What are the implications for a marine? How long are they to maintain that commitment? How is that like the command Peter gives to believers in 1 Peter 4:1 (“**arm yourselves also with the same purpose**”)?
2. Note that 1 Peter 4:1-6 is filled with reasons **WHY** we should embrace suffering as a normal experience for those who follow Jesus. As you make observations of a text, notice words like “Therefore, since, because, for, For, for...” With that in mind, in these 6 verses, how many reasons can you find as to why a believer should faithfully embrace and endure unjust suffering because they are living righteously.
3. Peter says, “**he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin...**” What does that mean? How does verse 2 help you interpret that statement?
4. Peter says “**no longer**” in verse 2 and then says “**is sufficient**” in verse 3. What is he saying about a believer’s involvement with sinful living? See also 1 Peter 1:13-16; Rom. 13:12-14; Gal. 5:19-24; 2 Cor. 12:20-21; Eph. 4:17-24.
5. Share your **personal testimony** with others in your group (or family). Share three things: 1) what your life was like before you repented and trusted in Jesus; 2) how the Lord drew you to repentance and faith in Him alone; 3) how your life has changed since you were born into God’s family. Encourage each other with the positive changes toward righteousness accomplished by the Spirit of God. Share what has helped you the most in your battle to overcome sin.
6. In verse 4, Peter says the friends you used to actively sin with are **surprised** (unexpected wonder; left with their mouths wide open) that you won’t engage in sin with them anymore. Their shock turns to disbelief and ultimately leads them to **malign** you (slander, blaspheme, injure your reputation). This is hard for many new believers because of the “**fear of man**” and/or a history of giving in to peer pressure. What does the Bible say about the fear of man? How do we overcome it? What fear must replace it? Use Scripture to answer.
7. What does it mean in verse 5 that God is “**ready**” to judge the living and the dead? How is He getting ready? How does knowing that motivate you to cease from sin and live for the will of God? Knowing that friends of yours will have to give an account someday, what is your responsibility? How does meditating on the thought of them shamefully being eternally judged by Jesus motivate you to keep sharing the gospel with them?
8. What does verse 6 mean? How do you know it doesn’t mean that people get a second chance to respond to the gospel after they die? Compare it to 1 Peter 3:18 to help you interpret the verse properly. How does a proper interpretation help you face suffering that could possibly lead to martyrdom for Christ?
9. If you participated in Pastor Paul’s **90-day-challenge to read through the Bible**, you will be finished this week. At the end of Revelation 22, reflect upon what you have read about man’s sinfulness and God’s faithfulness (both to redeem and to judge). Give God praise for His faithfulness and recommit your life to living exclusively for the will of God. Live daily in expectation of the return of Jesus. Boldly tell others of His amazing grace. And **KEEP ON READING!**
10. **Memorize 1 Peter 4:1-6.**