

1 Peter 3:13-4:6 Christians Living in a Hostile World

- I. **Principle- Suffering for righteousness v. 13-17**
 - a. **Who can harm you if your greatest desire is to do well?**
 - b. **On the other hand! You are blessed even if you suffer for righteousness' sake.**
 1. **Don't be troubled or intimidated! 2 Cor. 12:7-10**
 - c. **What then should I do?**
 1. **Set aside Christ as LORD in your heart**
 2. **Be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks for an account of your hope 2 Tim. 2:15**
 - **Not just endurance, defend your faith!**
 - **Do you really know who you are in Christ and what you believe and why?**
 3. **However, be gentle, make your defense with reverence**
 4. **Keep a good conscience and it will put others to shame**
 - **1 Tim. 1:5, 19; Acts 23:1; Heb. 13:18**
 5. **And, most importantly, leave room for God's will when it comes to suffering!**
 6. **Hebrews 7:26-27; 9:26-28**
- II. **Christ Jesus is our suffering example v. 18-22**
 - a. **For Christ also died FOR SINS once *hapax* for all, the just for the unjust**
 - b. **That Christ might BRING us to God**
 - c. **Christ Jesus, dead in the flesh but alive in *the* spirit**
 - d. **Visiting the abyss and announcing to disobedient spirits now in prison His triumphant victory**
 - e. **Gen. 6:1-8; Jude 6-7; 2 Peter 2:4-5**
 - f. **Saving us through His resurrection: just as He saved Noah**
 - g. **Romans 6:3-4; 5:6**
 - h. **Eph. 1:19-21**
- III. **The Purpose For Suffering v. 4:1-6**
 - a. **Christ suffered death in the flesh**
 1. **Arm yourself with the same purpose (attitude)**
 2. **Sin has its conclusion in death**
 3. **Suffering also aligns us with God's will**
 4. **So as to live according to the lusts of men**
 5. **You've had plenty of time already for sin and the desires of Gentiles**
 6. **Old friends and community will see your new behavior and malign you for not running with the crowd still**
 7. **Remember: They will be judged by Him who judges the living and dead**
 - b. **The gospel purpose being preached:**
 1. **That despite the judgment in the flesh as men**
 2. **They are made alive in the spirit by God's will 1 Thess. 4:13-18**