

1 Peter 3:17 – 4:6

New American Standard Bible (2020)

1 ¹⁷ For it is better, if God should will it *so*, that you suffer
2 for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

3 ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all *time*, *the*
4 just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God,
5 having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the
6 spirit; ¹⁹ **in which He also went and made proclamation**
7 **to the spirits in prison,** ²⁰ who once were disobedient
8 when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of
9 Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few,
10 that is, eight persons, were brought safely through *the*
11 water. ²¹ Corresponding to that, **baptism now saves you**
12 not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to
13 God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of
14 Jesus Christ, ²² who is at the right hand of God, having
15 gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers
16 had been subjected to Him.

17 **4** Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm
18 yourselves also with the same purpose, because **the one**
19 **who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,** ² so as
20 to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human
21 lusts, but for the will of God. ³ For the time already past is
22 sufficient *for you* to have carried out the desire of the
23 Gentiles, having pursued a course of indecent behavior,
24 lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties, and wanton
25 idolatries. ⁴ In *all* this, they are surprised that you do not
26 run with *them* in the same excesses of debauchery, and
27 they slander *you*; ⁵ but they will give an account to Him
28 who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶ For the
29 **gospel has for this purpose been preached even to**
30 **those who are dead,** that though they are judged in the
31 flesh as people, they may live in the spirit according to *the*
32 *will of God.*

*Last week we concentrated on **four puzzling statements** and how they fit into Peter’s letter.*

Consider summaries of those four statements:

- [Christ is victorious over a hostile world](#)
- [Like Noah, we have deliverance from the lifestyle of the hostile world.](#)
- [Suffering in a hostile world is evidence of our progress against sin.](#)
- [We have eternal hope during our “temporary residence” in a hostile world.](#)

First, do you think those summaries accurately describe what Peter is saying? Why or why not?

*Read through the passage again with last week’s discussion in mind **and** with special attention to Peter’s one command in the passage, “Therefore, arm yourselves” (4:1).*

How does the discussion from last week with the short summaries above help in understanding this passage as a whole? Or does it?

How does the “therefore” connect what is before and after it?

How do the things Peter says after the command to “arm yourselves” help explain what he thinks arming ourselves would look like?

For additional thought and discussion:

For more suggested methods of study: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/methodical-bible-study/>

For examples of inductive studies: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/inductive-bible-study-examples-2/>

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**

For a much more detailed description of the methodology, see

Robert A. Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*. Wilmore, Kentucky: Asbury Theological Seminary, 1952.

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