

1 Peter 3:17 – 4:6

Arm Yourself

What are the truths that Peter offers in support of his one command in this passage? How is that encouragement interwoven throughout these verses (and indeed through the entire epistle)? With what confident convictions are we to “arm ourselves” as we face a hostile world?

- [Christ is victorious over a hostile world.](#)
in which He also went and made proclamation to the spirits in prison (3:19),
 - at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him. (3:22)
 - but they will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. (4:5)
- [Like Noah, we have deliverance from the lifestyle of the hostile world.](#)
baptism now saves you (3:21a)
 - the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through *the* water (3:20)
 - appeal to God for a good conscience (3:21)
 - so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human lusts, but for the will of God. (4:2)
 - For the time already past is sufficient *for you* to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of indecent behavior, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties, and wanton idolatries. ⁴ In *all* this, they are surprised that you do not run with *them* in the same excesses of debauchery (4:3)
- [Suffering in a hostile world is evidence of our progress against sin.](#)
the one who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin (4:1b)
 - For it is better, if God should will it *so*, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong. (3:17)
 - they are surprised that you do not run with *them* in the same excesses of debauchery, and they slander *you* (4:4)
 - that though they are judged in the flesh as people (4:6b)
- [We have eternal hope during our “temporary residence” in a hostile world.](#)
gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead (4:6a)
 - so that He might bring us to God (3:18)
 - they may live in the spirit according to *the will of* God (4:6c)