

1 Peter 3:17-4:6

New International Version (NIV 1984)

1 ¹⁷ For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing
2 good than for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ died for sins once
3 for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to
4 God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by
5 the Spirit, ¹⁹ Through whom also he went and preached to
6 the spirits in prison ²⁰ who disobeyed long ago when God
7 waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was
8 being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved
9 through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that
10 now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body
11 but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves
12 you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone
13 into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels,
14 authorities and powers in submission to him.

15 **4** Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm
16 yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has
17 suffered in the body is done with sin. ² As a result, he does
18 not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires,
19 but rather for the will of God. ³ For you have spent enough
20 time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in
21 debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and
22 detestable idolatry. ⁴ They think it strange that you do not
23 plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and
24 they heap abuse on you. ⁵ But they will have to give
25 account to him who is ready to judge the living and the
26 dead. ⁶ For this is the reason the gospel was preached even
27 to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged
28 according to men in regard to the body, but live according
29 to God in regard to the spirit.

Read the passage through completely before looking at these questions.

Observation (What does it say?):

Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?

- Mark a check ✓ next to statements that seem to confirm what you know and believe.
- Mark a question ? next to statements that seem unusual or difficult or puzzling.
- **Circle** all the commands in the passage.
- What else do you observe in this passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- How do the puzzling ? parts relate to the clear ✓ parts? Or do they?
- How would you explain the puzzling ? parts to a new Christian or to a skeptical unbeliever?
- What is the “therefore” there for in 4:1? How does 4:1-6 connect to 3:17-22?
- What questions come to mind as you read?
- How would you title this passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- What does Peter expect his readers (you) to do about all he says in this passage?
- What would that look like in your life?

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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