

# 1 Peter 4:1-19

(Basic Bible in English)

These next 3 chapters are called "The Suffering Chapters" because they speak a great deal of suffering and how we should deal with it as Christians who are living in a world that's lost, dying, dark and bad things go on everyday. We are living in a darkening world that is demonically inspired, and the end of the age is approaching as evidenced by what's going on in the world – politically, socially, environmentally... These chapters talk about the trials and tribulations that we meet in our daily lives.

**1 ¶ Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;** "forasmuch" takes us back to when Jesus Christ died for us and is now at the right hand of God making intercession for us and all of the heavenly beings are under His authority. You know what Jesus Christ went through; be prepared to go through it yourself after you get saved and grow as a Christian.

**2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.** Remove the sin from your life as best you can. When you go through tribulations that are hard, it brings us closer to Jesus Christ. Tribulations take our focus away from the ways of the world.

**3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:** in your past life before you became a believer in Jesus Christ, (remember, Rome was prosecuting the Christians at this time), before we became a child of Jesus Christ we were overcome with lust, partying, all the things we do when we try to have a good time. Anything that takes affection away from God is an idol. An idol can be a statue, a rock band, a house, car, jewelry, actor/actress, child, husband, wife, etc.

**4 ¶ Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:** don't be surprised that your party friends will start talking bad about you when you leave their circle. This will make them mad and they'll try to get back in the circle, down to their level.

**5 Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.** You're going to stand before Jesus Christ one day in judgment as a child or as a nonbeliever, alive or dead. Everyone ever born and died on earth will be judged by Jesus Christ one day. You can either accept Him or deny Him – you have a choice. There's no straddling the fence in this life.


**6 For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.** You can either live a life for the flesh and the devil or you can live a life for Jesus Christ, and the people in the world won't like you. You'll stand before Jesus Christ one day in judgment and He's the only one you need to please.

**7 ¶ But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.** Be careful how you're walking right now, because persecution is still going on around the world today. There are Christians in prison and being tortured and killed just because they believe in Jesus Christ.

**8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.** Do you realize if you take the world situation and society as a whole, if people had a genuine love of Jesus Christ, do you realize how much society would change overnight? Everyone would be out of prison; poverty would disappear, only if we just loved one another as Jesus Christ tells us we should have for one another, all the problems would vanish overnight.

**9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging.** Be glad you got the opportunity to care for one another.

**10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.** What gift? It's the gift that God gave you. Every person alive has a gift from God to use for His glory, not for you spell bound people or lift you up above mankind. Some of these gifts we never see in the public domain, but they got it. If you don't know what your gift is, pray about it, then use it for His glory.



**11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.** All these gifts work and intertwine together to help us all and build the body of Jesus Christ. That's what it's all about.

**12 ¶ Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:** When trials and tribulations come, don't think you've been singled out. That's usually not the case. Jesus Christ will lay some trials and tribulations on you if you're straying from the correct path, like a parent disciplining a child. But mostly suffering strengthens you and makes you focus on God and not the world. Not all of them come from God; He permits some suffering in your life. Think of gold: it comes out of a mine not so pretty, then they burn away all the dirt and dust and purify/clean it till it shines. That's what God does to us with the trials and tribulations: burns and chips away the chafe till we're pure as gold.

**13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.** Going through these trials and tribulations are not fun. We have to battle them everyday. But its all part of the process. When we get to the point when Jesus Christ is revealed, we'll be cleaned and pure and ready for judgment. We'll look back on these times and realize it was worth going through all that to get to this point.

**14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.** People criticize you and your relationship with Jesus Christ, but they are really insulting Jesus Christ, not you.

**15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.** Don't get involved in grapevines at work or in the neighborhood, don't associate yourself with blatant gossipers or meddlers. What other people do is none of your business unless you have something to add to their life that will help them.

**16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.** It's ok to suffer as a Christian because it's an honor and it glorifies Jesus Christ.

**17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God**

**18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? ?** Listen; if you're having a tough time with life and you get to Jesus Christ on judgment day after a battle with your trials and tribulations, what kind of chance do nonbelievers have on judgment day?

**19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.** God will be faithful and keep you safe eternally, after the trials and tribulations we must endure here on earth.