

The Battle for Holiness between the comings of Christ
1 Peter 4:1-6
May 14, 2017

My goal is to make holiness, holy living, attractive.

The Festival of Dionysius (Bacchus to the Romans)

Is holiness boring?

Peter is calling Christians to holiness, and to accept the ridicule, rejection and persecution that will result.

We can derive several motivations for holiness from this text:

1) Because Christ suffered for sin, strive to be holy. v 1

Jesus died to release you from the pain, bondage and stupidity of sin.

You are to arm yourself with the same mind, the same purpose.

Whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin. v 1b-2

Some say that this refers to Christ.

Through Christ's blood we are released from the enslaving power of sin.
Others say that it refers to the Christian suffering for doing the right thing.

The one who is willing to suffer for doing the right thing, has made a clean break from sin. He has shown that obeying God is more important to them than avoiding difficulty.

Your past life in sin is sufficient. v 3

Because you have already wasted enough time in sin, strive to be holy

The Ugly List v 3b

The fallen way of life. (Romans 13:13; Galatians 5:19-21)

Because judgment is coming, strive to be holy. v 4-5

They wonder what is up with you, and feel condemned by your refusal to participate.

Because you have heard the gospel, strive to be holy. v 6

Christ has died to deliver you from sin, selfishness and pride.

What does holiness mean?

Taste and see that the Lord is good.