

## **Sin & Suffering**

### **1 Peter 4:1-3 (NKJV)**

1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. 3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles--when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

Sin and suffering have been integrated since Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit.

When sin came into the world, suffering and death came into the world. Romans 5:12

Most people have no desire to be freed from sin.

Jesus came to set people free, but not from Rome or taxes, but from sin.

Only the believer to whom Peter is speaking has an honest desire to be free of sin and the suffering that comes as the result of it.

At first sight it doesn't seem that Peter is helping us too much by saying that the dead person is finally freed from sin.

That seems a little extreme, but is that what Peter is saying.

- I. All suffering is either a direct or indirect result of sin.
  - A. All have sinned and the wages of sin is death and death most often results from some sort of suffering.
  - B. We suffer sometimes because our sin has led to suffering.
    - 1. This was often the case for the wicked kings of Israel.
    - 2. Herod who died for not giving glory to God.
    - 3. Pharaoh and the Egyptians.
    - 4. The Israelites that rebelled against Moses.
  - C. Other times our suffering is simply the indirect result of suffering.
    - 1. We live in a fallen world, fallen because of sin.
    - 2. Even the best of men will often suffer and die.
      - a. Not because they are particularly bad sinners.
      - b. Job's friend thought that he must be a terrible sinner for he was suffering was severe.
      - c. If God were to demand justice for the sins of our lives we would all be condemned.

- D. But Jesus was not responsible for His sin.
  - 1. The sin that brought Jesus' suffering was first the sin of those who persecuted Him.
  - 2. Secondly the chastisement for our sins was laid upon Him and He gladly bore it.
  
- II. How could any human other than Jesus have ceased from sin?
  - A. Has ceased from sin.
    - 1. Some translate this as being done with sin.
    - 2. There is a real sense in that when Jesus died for our sin, He completed His goal of removing our sin from our account and He was finished with sin.
  - B. The Christian is done with sin or has ceased from sin in three ways.
  - C. From the penalty of sin.
    - 1. We live with the penalty of sin confronting us each day of our lives until we are saved.
    - 2. Romans 5:1 (NKJV)
    - 3. 1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
  - D. From the power of sin.
    - 1. Sin is so integrated into the sinner that he cannot free himself from it.
    - 2. 2 Peter 2:14 (NKJV)
      - a. 14 having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children.
    - 3. Jeremiah 13:23 (NKJV)
      - a. 23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.
    - 4. This is what Peter is speaking of for the believer.
      - a. 1 John 5:18 (NKJV)
        - (1) 18 We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.
      - b. What is he saying here.

- (1) Not that we never commit a sin.
- (2) But rather that we no longer practice sin as we once did.
- c. 1 John 1:8 (NKJV)
  - (1) 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- 5. The believer in Jesus Christ has a new weapon, the Spirit of God who lives in him.
  - a. Colossians 3:5–10 (NKJV)
    - (1) 5 Therefore **put to death your members which are on the earth**: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. 8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is **renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,**
- 6. Romans 6:6–7 (NKJV)
  - a. 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.
- 7. he that is spiritually dead with Christ, whose old man is crucified with him. Hath ceased from sin; from sinning willingly and delightfully, and yielding himself up to the power of sin; compare Rom. 6, which explains this: what Peter here calls suffering in the flesh, Paul there calls a being dead to sin, ver. 2, 11; and what Peter calls a ceasing from sin, Paul calls a living no longer in sin, ver. 2, and a being freed from it, ver. 7. *Matthew Poole, Annotations upon the Holy Bible, vol. 3 (New York: Robert Carter and Brothers, 1853), 912.*
- 8. Romans 6:7–11 (NKJV)
  - a. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to

sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

9. Romans 6:18 (NKJV)
  - a. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

E. In our glorified state we will be free from the presence of sin.

1. When the believer has left this life there is no more sin.
  - a. Romans 6:7 (NKJV)
    - (1) 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.
2. We will be as the angels.
3. We will have a body like Jesus.
4. No sin enters there.
5. With the destruction of the flesh so the desires of the flesh.

III. Going through suffering is a sort of mortification of the flesh and its desires.

A. When the believer is faced with persecution and does not deny his Lord then you can rest assured he is genuine in his faith.

B. Suffering is often God's way of removing the dross from our souls.

1. 1 Peter 1:6–9 (NKJV)
  - a. <sup>6</sup> In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup> whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, <sup>9</sup> receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.
2. Isaiah 48:10 (NKJV)
  - a. 10 Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

IV. Not living for the will of man but the will of God

A. We have spent enough of this life in sin and foolishness.

B. We should concern ourselves with the will of God.

1. That is a natural mind set for the believer.

2. Colossians 3:2 (NKJV)

a. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

C. God has changed everything.

1. We have a new heart.

2. We have a new mind.

3. We have a new master.

4. We have a new destination.

5. We have a new purpose.

D. The will of God is our supreme concern.

Romans 6:6–7 (NKJV)

6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.

Romans 8:13 (NKJV)

13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Galatians 5:24 (NKJV)

24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatians 6:14 (NKJV)

14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.