



# KING'S CHAPEL

## Daily Devotional - 1 Peter Study

Week 6 - Day 1

### Approaching God

**Read John 15:5,7** - *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing...If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."*

**Prayer:** Be still and quiet yourself. Take a few minutes to focus on God and to shut out distractions. Offer a simple prayer to start your time using the truth and promises in John 15. Something like, "Father, thank you that you are the source of life and fruit. Meet with me today and help me to abide in you in all things. I desire that your word abide in me today. Amen."

### Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - 1 Peter 4:1-6

**Passage Introduction:** *Having exhorted us to endure mistreatment with grace by remembering Christ's work, Peter now moves from endurance to action. How should the believer regard sin? What behaviors should be avoided? What behaviors should be embraced? How should we steward the gifts we have been given? And how can we learn not just to endure suffering, but to find joy in it?*

#### **Ceased from Sin**

"The phrase 'ceased from sin' describes a present condition determined by a past event. This phrase does not describe an ongoing process either, but rather a new situation. Peter is speaking of one act of suffering (of Christ) where sin is stopped or finished. The result is that the penalty of sin was done away with - for Christ was finished with it."

*Edmund Clowney*

**1 Peter 4:1-6** - **1** Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, **2** so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. **3** For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. **4** With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; **5** but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. **6** For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.

**Start with Engaging the Text:** Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words. What words or ideas are repeated, related, compared, contrasted?

## Daily Study Questions

You may find it helpful to read through the commentary in “Resources for Further Study” at the end of today’s study to answer these questions.

### Questions for Study

- What are 2 or 3 things you observe about God in this passage? The Father, Son, or Holy Spirit?
- What are 2 or 3 things you observe about people, you, or your neighbor in this passage?
- What are 2 or 3 commands that Peter gives that stand out to you in this passage?

### Questions for Meditation & Application

- Have you ever suffered in a way that caused you to cease from sin? What did you endure and how did it change you?
- What truth has caught the attention of your heart or mind today? (a command to be obeyed, a comfort to be savored, a characteristic of God to be grasped) Think about this truth. What is it really saying? Now, try to put it into your own words. Ask yourself, why is God showing me this today? As thoughts become clear or convicting, write them down.

### Close in Prayer:

After answering the second meditation question, use the remainder of your time to pray through your takeaways? What do you want to **rejoice** in today? Where is there need for **repentance**? What **requests** do you have as a result of your time today? Take 3-5 mins and talk to God about this.

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## Resources for Further Study

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1 Peter chapter 4 notes

### Commentary & Notes on 1 Peter 4:1-6

**vs. 1-2 - “since therefore Christ suffered.”** The suffering of Christ again functions as a model and inspiration for the readers. Concerning the phrase whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, three different interpretations have been suggested: (1) Some suggest that this could refer to the suffering of Christ (“the one who has suffered”)—who, though he was not himself a sinner, took sin upon himself and then triumphed over it forever through his suffering and death. This interpretation seems unlikely, however, because “whoever” seems too broad and imprecise to be a clear reference to Christ. (2) Others have suggested that this is a reference to the believer being dead to the power of sin, as a result of having died with Christ (similar to Paul’s concept in Rom. 6:1–11). (3) More likely, Peter’s point is that when believers are willing to suffer, the nerve center of sin is severed in their lives. Although believers will never be totally free from sin in this life (cf. James 3:2; 1 John 1:8), when believers endure suffering for the sake of Christ they show that their purpose in life is not to live for their own pleasures but according to the will of God and for his glory.

**vs. 3-4 - “living in sensuality”** - drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. The lives of unbelievers have not fundamentally changed from the first century to the twenty-first; believers should have nothing to do with such behavior, even when their non-participation means that others will malign them.

**vs. 5 - “they will give account to him”** - Unbelievers do not have the last word; they will give account and face God’s judgment.

**vs. 6 - “the gospel was preached even to those who are dead.”** Although some maintain that Peter offers a second chance after death for those who rejected Christ, this view is untenable since it contradicts both the clear teaching of Scripture throughout the rest of the Bible (e.g., Luke 16:26; Heb. 9:27; see note on 1 Pet. 3:19) and the immediate context, concerning the importance of perseverance of believers (4:1–6) and the coming judgment of “the living and the dead” (v. 5). Given the immediate context, “those who are dead” refers to Christians to whom “the gospel was preached” when they were alive but who have since died. This fits with the meaning of “dead” in v. 5. Even though believers will experience physical death (i.e., they are judged in the flesh the way people are), believers who have died live in the spirit the way God does (that is, they live in heaven now, and they will live as well at the resurrection when Christ returns).

**Passage Summary:** To suffer for belief in God’s will is to follow in the footsteps of the sufferings of Christ. Peter wants believers to “arm” themselves (v. 1) with this reality, as they focus on “the will of God” rather than on “human passions.” While such suffering may not lead to a ceasing from every sin, godly priorities establish a wholesome pattern of life (vv. 1–2).

Note that Peter speaks not simply of making better decisions but of *living for* something (v. 2). Only in the gospel of grace are we given the power to surrender all our rights and live for Christ (cf. Phil. 3:7–9). Peter also reminds those who suffer that to die having lived a life of holiness is no waste. God will judge unrepentant persecutors of his people and will vindicate his persecuted saints