



**WEST  
SIDE  
CHURCH**

## Week 8

**Sermon Series:** Sojourners & Exiles: 1 Peter

**Sermon Title:** Armed with Christ

**Sermon Text:** 1 Peter 4:1-6

**Group Week of:** October 23, 2022

**Sermon Date:** October 30, 2022

## The Text

- 1) **Read** the text slowly and carefully.
- 2) **Pray** for understanding, insight, and transformation.
- 3) **Observe Everything.** Use pens and highlighters to mark the text. Come up with your own system of symbols, underlines, arrows, highlights, and notes, which will *help you understand and apply*. Only do what is helpful.
- 4) **Answer** the interpretive questions at the bottom.

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. <sup>2</sup>As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. <sup>3</sup>For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. <sup>4</sup>They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. <sup>5</sup>But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. <sup>6</sup>For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to human standards in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.

## Textual Questions

- 1) What is the message God and Peter are speaking to the church in Asia Minor (and to you) through this passage?
- 2) Why would people be upset with Christians who no longer participate in these sinful activities?
- 3) What is meant by Peter when he says that this is the reason for the gospel being preached even to those who are now dead?

## **Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies**

<b>Day 1</b>	The Suffering of Jesus – Matt 27:11-31
<b>Day 2</b>	Suffering for Perfection – Heb 2:5-18
<b>Day 3</b>	The Father's Will – Luke 22:39-44
<b>Day 4</b>	New Life – Ephesians 4:17-32
<b>Day 5</b>	Judgement – Revelation 20:11-15

## Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) Arming ourselves with the attitude of Christ is *powerful*.
  - i. How does arming ourselves with an “attitude” differ from merely trying to copy someone’s behavior?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - ii. What happens when you try to arm yourselves with the “behavior” of Jesus rather than His attitude?
  
- 2) Do you ever wish for more time indulging in worldly pleasures? Consider different areas of worldly values such as materialism, alcohol and drugs, partying, sex, luxurious living, travel, etc. If that desire ever shows up in your heart, how do you deal with it?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) Many people who grow up in church are aware that they can always be forgiven for their sins later. For this reason, they put off becoming a committed Christian, giving themselves time in the present to live sinfully, and they believe that when they’ve had their fun they can go and ask Christ to forgive them. Why won’t this plan work?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) Peter says that enough time has been spent doing what the pagans do. What about for Christians who have never lived in worldly sin in those big obvious ways. Has enough time passed for them in doing what the pagans do? Why or why not?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) Those who have heard the gospel preached, believed it, and are now dead, have been judged according to human standards in the body but live according to God in the spirit. Why is this truth important for Christians trying to abstain from evil living at the cost of social persecution?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 6) Even if we are not actively facing persecution, we still need to arm ourselves with the attitude of Christ to be done with sin in this life. What area of habitual sin is still causing problems for you in your walk with God? Talk about it with your group and think through how you can arm yourself with the attitude of Christ so that you no longer live for the sinful human will, but for the will of God.