

The City of Man

1 Peter 4:1-6

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I. Introduction

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.

II. 'The Same Way of Thinking'

1 Peter 3:17: For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

Mark 8:31-38: Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and seeing his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." 34 Jesus then called the crowd to himself with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 35 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul? 38 For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

It is a _____ mentality. You must _____ yourself with this mindset. It isn't something you just fall into, but it requires _____ and forethought. Cf. 1 Peter 1:13; 4:7; 5:8.

Peter learned the lesson of the _____. The Cross isn't just our Lord's, but it is ours too. When we follow Christ, our life—and the life of the Church—follows the pattern of his.

III. The City of Man

The City of Man is _____ to the core. It has a . . .

- (A) Corrupt _____, *living in sensuality, passions, and orgies.*
- (B) Corrupt _____, *living in drunkenness and drinking parties.*
- (C) Corrupt _____, *living in lawless idolatry.*

Augustine, *City of God* (12.8): “Greed is not something wrong with gold; the fault is in a man who perversely loves gold and for its sake abandons justice, which ought to be put beyond comparison above gold. Lust is not something wrong in a beautiful and attractive body; the fault is in a soul which perversely delights in sensual pleasures, to the neglect of that self-control by which we are made fit for spiritual realities far more beautiful, with a loveliness which cannot fade. Boasting is not something wrong with the praise of men; the fault is in a soul which perversely loves the praise of others and cares nothing for the ‘witness of conscience’. Pride is not something wrong in the one who loves power, or in the power itself; the fault is in the soul which perversely loves its own power, and has no thought for the justice of the Omnipotent. By the same token, anyone who perversely loves the goodness of any nature whatsoever, even if he obtains the enjoyment of it, becomes evil in the enjoyment of the good, and wretched in being deprived of a higher nature.”

The times of _____, which were already over in _____ day, and are long gone in _____ day.

Acts 17:30-31: *The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.*”

IV. “And They Malign You”

_____ is not a trial. Obeying God is not _____. The suffering Peter has in view is the suffering that we endure from _____ while obeying God.

Peter is calling us to _____. The prize is eternal life. The prize is the Kingdom of God—a Kingdom that knows no end, that cannot be destroyed. Indeed, the prize is King Jesus Himself. Paul writes that _____, whether the apostles or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's (cf. 1 Cor. 3:21-23). But it does come with a _____.

It costs _____ with the City of Man. James says that friendship with the world is enmity with God. Whoever, therefore, would make himself a friend to the world makes himself an enemy to God (cf. James 4:4).

V. “But They Will Give an Account”

1 Peter 4:5: *But they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.*

VI. Conclusion