

## **1 Peter 4:1-6**

### **Armed to Live for God**

Hey good morning church. So very good to be with you today as we continue our walk through the book of 1 Peter. I trust this has been a productive time in the Word of God for you – just to let you know where we're going – looks like we'll have 5 more Sundays including today in the book of 1 Peter – as we see how Peter's written to the church to encourage, to testify, and to cause us to STAND FIRM in the Gospel.

Kids – Everyone under 20 – remember there's a challenge – if you can memorize 1 Peter 5:12 before the ending of August, you'll get an illuminated Scripture journal for the book of Acts. Either say it to me, or say it to mom/dad/grandma/grandpa, whatever – say it to someone and you'll get a special scripture journal for the book of Acts.

As some of us may recall, the last couple of weeks we've been looking specifically at the role of suffering in the Christian life. The inevitability of suffering, the call to honor God as we suffer, and the victory that Christ promises to those that suffer for his name.

This week – the idea I want us to consider is that, as a Christian, one who has turned from their sin and by faith trusted/trusting in Jesus, as a Christian we are to be ARM OURSELVES TO LIVE FOR GOD. ARMED TO LIVE FOR GOD.

Turn with me, if you have a Bible, turn with me to 1 Peter 4:1-6 from the CSB  
Therefore, since Christ suffered<sup>[a]</sup> in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same understanding<sup>[b]</sup>—because the one who suffers in the flesh is finished with sin<sup>[c]</sup>—<sup>2</sup> in order to live the remaining time in the flesh no longer for human desires, but for God's will.

<sup>3</sup> For there has already been enough time spent in doing what the Gentiles choose to do: carrying on in unrestrained behavior, evil desires, drunkenness, orgies, carousing, and lawless idolatry. <sup>4</sup> They are surprised that you don't join them in the same flood of wild living—and they slander<sup>[d]</sup> you. <sup>5</sup> They will give an account to the one who stands ready to judge the living and the dead.

<sup>6</sup> For this reason the gospel was also preached to those who are now dead,<sup>[e]</sup> so that, although they might be judged in the flesh according to human standards, they might live in the spirit according to God's standards.

### **PRAY.**

Hopefully you see where we going this morning with the text of Scripture – the importance of being armed – armed in order to live for God.

The primary thing Peter's written to us in this text is the call to "ARM YOURSELVES WITH THE SAME UNDERSTANDING..."

### **I. Arm Yourself**

Therefore, since Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same understanding.

- Expecting that we will experience suffering – and that not even death can take us out of the hand of God – if in fact we are Christians.
- If, we have turned from our sin and are trusting in Jesus alone, no amount of suffering, not even martyrdom, will defeat us. Because we have Christ as our Victorious and Conquering King.
- He defeated sin and death.

The imperative – the primary verb here – is the arming of ourselves. Knowing that suffering is coming. Arm yourselves.

Now, my boys have agreed to be an illustration today. Dillon is 9, gonna be in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade in a few weeks; Shawkos is almost 11, gonna turn 11 the day before he enters 5<sup>th</sup> grade in a couple of weeks – BOYS, come on up.

These kids are awesome. They love to get ready to do battle. They have all these nerf guns, and toy swords, and all kinds of cool stuff to dress and to prepare to get ready to do battle. Let's see what we've got in this box.

Suit

Gun

Darts

Tennis Racquet, because you never know when an imaginary zombie is gonna come at you and you have to swat it away with a tennis racquet

Ax – this thing's cool, someone's gotta get this thing

These boys are armed for trouble right? Look at that – they could take on about anything that could ever come at them. Man they're awesome. Ok boys, go sit down for me; go back with your mom.

Now, when these boys are playing their games, getting ready to do battle – they take GREAT care to be armed properly for these imaginary battles that they're going to face.

As a Christian, you and I are called to ARM OURSELVES – to be ready to suffer. To not let the suffering we may experience derail our faith.

Peter gives this almost parenthetical comment, that the one that suffers in the flesh is finished with sin.

### **II. Finished with Sin**

Here's the picture Peter's giving us:

- Not of 100% perfection all the time – every one of us still sins.
- But, a picture of no longer being mastered by sin as a slave to it. When we sin – we confess, repent and experience Jesus's ongoing forgiveness.
- If we are finished with sin – We are free to live for righteousness
  - REFERENCE 1 Peter 2:24
  - He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that having died to sins, we might live for righteousness.
  - READ Romans 6:8-12

<sup>8</sup> Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him, <sup>9</sup> because we know that Christ, having been raised from the dead, will not die again. Death no longer rules over him. <sup>10</sup> For the death he died, he died to sin once for all time; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> So, you too consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, so that you obey<sup>13</sup> its desires.

- Finished with Sin.
- Completely finished with sin.
- Dead to it.
- What do we do when we screw up? We repent, and move forward. We push forward in the grace of God, knowing that we're dead to sin – finished with it.

Because...we've been armed for a purpose – in order to live for God.

### III. In Order to Live...For God's will

#### Read V3

**Armed for a purpose – to live for God's will. See, my boys, if they don't have their full suits on, if they're not properly armed, they may not be ready for when the imaginary zombies come after them.** They are diligent to arm themselves in order to win the imaginary game.

Christian – we are called to be finished with sin, and arm ourselves in order to live for God's will. We have to be ready – fully prepared – to live for God's will because our natural drift will be away from godliness toward selfishness, in all the different ways that makes itself present in our lives.

But hear me – please hear me – as a Christian – for as long as you have breath – you are here to bring glory to God. To point others to the greatness of King Jesus. To honor Christ by how you live. To share the good news of Jesus with your words to all who will hear, and to show the compassionate love of Jesus with your actions.

See, it's one thing to be armed – I love the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment – the right to bear arms. But it's another thing all together to be armed for a purpose.

Illustration – Taking the kids to get school supplies and school clothes.

Illustration – OR how bout being a girl dad.

Peter calls us to arm ourselves – for the purpose of living for God's will. How do we know the will of God? We seek the will of God through the pages of this book. As we see the character of God on display, and the commands of Christ revealed – we see how God desires for us to love. I love how the Westminster Shorter Catechism points us to this. Just a series of questions and answers – starts with...

Q. 1. *What is the chief end of man?*

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

Q. 2. *What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?*

A. The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

Q. 3. *What do the Scriptures principally teach?*

A. The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

Translation → The scriptures reveal to us how to live the remaining time we have in the flesh no longer for human desires but for God's will.

See the connection between the priority of the Word of God in arming ourselves to live for God, to bring glory to God, to honor God.

Here's how the apostle Paul called it, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, when he was writing to a group of churches:

<sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body,<sup>u</sup> I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**Finished with sin, Armed in order to live for God's will – we have to realize we can't waste any more time.**

#### **IV. Don't Waste Any More Time**

Read V3

For there has already been enough time – the thought here is there's been too much time. Don't waste any more time. Here's what I know – I've said this directly to some of you – you and I can't change yesterday. We can't change this morning, last night, last week, last month, last year. You get my point. We forget what was behind and press forward. What do you do if

you've made horrible mistakes? Don't be trapped in your past – Repent, seek the Lord's forgiveness, and then move forward not wasting any more time. Here's how Paul wrote to the Philippian church:

**READ Philippians 3:12-14**

<sup>2</sup> Not that I have already reached the goal or am already perfect, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not<sup>Ⓜ</sup> consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly<sup>Ⓜ</sup> call in Christ Jesus.

Trust in the COMPLETE FORGIVENESS of God through Jesus Christ – trust that when the scriptures say “There is now NOW condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” – trust that through Christ you really ARE forgiven as you repent and believe the Gospel. And press FORWARD.

People are going to be surprised. That's ok. Especially for those that come to faith as an adult. Your spouse, your kids, your co-workers – whatever, they're going to be surprised. Those that are not followers of Christ may even mock you.

V4 – They're surprised in the change of life, and mock you for it. Good. Let them mock you.  
V5 – They will give an account.

God has given judgment to Jesus – And ultimately, we aren't accountable to the mockery of others – we are accountable to Jesus.

V6 – Whether we live until Jesus returns, or not – Every single person, one day will stand before Jesus – for those of us who have, by grace turned from our sin and are trusting in Jesus, he will welcome us. For everyone else, he will banish them – saying depart from me I never knew you.

**CLOSING**

So...What are you armed with, and what are you armed for? That first point, and don't miss this, the first point is to respond to the offer of Jesus's invitation – to turn from your sin and follow him – experience life with Christ – AND THEN arm yourself to live for Christ. Can't miss the order here.