

Sermon Outline and Questions

Pastor Dave – Sun 25th June 2023

Gospel Centred Living

Msg Title – It's About Time - 1 Peter 4:1-6

1 Peter 4:1-6 Christian Standard Bible

Following Christ

4 Therefore, since Christ suffered^[a] in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same understanding^[b]—because the one who suffers in the flesh is finished with sin^[c]— **2** in order to live the remaining time in the flesh no longer for human desires, but for God's will. **3** 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. **4** They are surprised that you don't join them in the same flood of wild living—and they slander^[d] you. **5** They will give an account to the one who stands ready to judge the living and the dead. **6** For this reason the gospel was also preached to those who are now dead,^[e] 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.

Time – It's about time – High Time!

Well known phrases...

- Time waits for no one.
- Time is fleeting.

We assume that we have plenty of time!

- That we have plenty of time ahead of us.

We often here at funeral services spoken that we are not guaranteed a particular amount of time.

- We don't know how much time we have.

Peter's thoughts here are...

"How are we going to use this time".

- That suffering naturally is an element of what happens over time.
- We need to be prepared for troubled times.

1 Peter 4:1

4 Therefore, since Christ suffered^[a] in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same understanding^[b]—because the one who suffers in the flesh is finished with sin^[c]—

Question – What exactly is Peter saying here?

Therefore...

- Since Christ suffered in the flesh
- Therefore – typically looking to previous passages – but to remember that this isn't a blanket rule.

The previous passage here would be 1 Peter 3:18.

1 Peter 3:18 Christian Standard Bible

18 For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh^[a] but made alive by the Spirit,^[b]

Our suffering doesn't win salvation to people!

- We have to be careful.

Question – What is Peter talking about here?

- 2 aspects of Christ's suffering.

#1 – That he suffered and died for us on the cross of calvary to bring us salvation.

#2 – Christ suffered in the flesh because he did what was right.

Committing himself to scorn, mocking and betrayal – as he demonstrated a righteous life.

As he lived as God the father desired him to live.

- We are not like that.
- But we can have the same understanding.

Peter – “Like Christ we have to be prepared to suffer to have humbling lives.

Arm yourself with the same understanding – this is a military term.

- As we live in reasonable peace – we don’t understand what it means to be ready for battle.

Reflecting upon the situation between the Ukraine and Russia – the missionaries who are called to minister in those environments.

- The missionaries needing to be ready to move.

We are as Christians reminded that we are in a spiritual battle and that we need to ready every single day.

Peter reminds the believers – arm yourself with the same understanding.

- The same understanding in that we need to...

Know – be aware – conscious of – and prepared for it.

2 Corinthians 6:4-10 Christian Standard Bible

⁴ Instead, as God’s ministers, we commend ourselves in everything: by great endurance, by afflictions, by hardships, by difficulties, ⁵ by beatings, by imprisonments, by riots, by labors, by sleepless nights, by times of hunger, ⁶ by purity, by knowledge, by patience, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, ⁷ by the word of truth,^[a] by the power of God; through weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, ⁸ through glory and dishonor, through slander and good report; regarded as deceivers, yet true; ⁹ as unknown, yet recognized; as dying, yet see—we live; as being

disciplined, yet not killed; ¹⁰ as grieving, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet enriching many; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

- We are ministers for Jesus Christ

Notice that Paul is saying that our weapons are weapons of righteousness – the word of God.

Why? – because we are in a spiritual battle.

Paul is talking about this, and Peter is mentioning it.

- The real enemy here is the enemy of the soul.

Ephesians 6:10-20 Christian Standard Bible

Christian Warfare

¹⁰ Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by his vast strength. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil.

Then Paul continues on and talks about what the armour looks like.

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens. ¹³ For this reason take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand. ¹⁴ Stand, therefore, with truth like a belt around your waist, righteousness like armor on your chest, ¹⁵ and your feet sandaled with readiness for the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In every situation take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit—which is the word of God. ¹⁸ Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel. ²⁰ For this I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I might be bold enough to speak about it as I should.

Paul is talking about the same things as Peter.

- That we need to arm ourselves.

This verse lends itself to what is said at the end of 1 Peter 4:1

Following Christ

4 Therefore, since Christ suffered^[a] in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same understanding^[b]—because the one who suffers in the flesh is finished with sin^[c]—

- Finished with sin – we would say that we are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ – but that we still wrestle with sin.

Peter – commitment to suffering is evidence that you have broken from a life of sin.

If we are living as God calls us to live – living righteous lives – pursuing Godliness, that commitment to living a life free of sin will bring suffering.

That reminder to us is that we are living a life free from sin.

- Why – because our lives are opposed to a system that loves lust and human passion – and what is in it for me.

We are living in – what is in it for God – this will fly in the face of the world around us.

- This will bring suffering.

1 Peter 4:2 Christian Standard Bible

²in order to live the remaining time in the flesh no longer for human desires, but for God's will.

- We need to use our time obediently.

Romans 13:11-14 Christian Standard Bible

Put On Christ

¹¹ Besides this, since you know the time, it is already the hour for you^(a) to wake up from sleep, because now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over, and the day is near; so let us discard the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk with decency, as in the daytime: not in carousing and drunkenness; not in sexual impurity and promiscuity; not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to gratify its desires.

- put on the armor of light.
- The mentality of arming ourselves.

Paul in these verses is saying the same as Peter.

1 Peter 4:2 Christian Standard Bible

Following Christ

² in order to live the remaining time in the flesh no longer for human desires, but for God's will.

We need to realise we need to use our time obediently, even as we realise, we don't know what time we have.

- Remaining time in the flesh – meaning remaining time here on earth.
- No longer for humans' desires but for God's will.

Question – What is God's will for me?

- This is plainly evident through scripture.

Paul – ¹³ Let us walk with decency, as in the daytime: not in carousing and drunkenness; not in sexual impurity and promiscuity; not in quarreling and jealousy.

- These are all God's will!
- God's will is – I want you to live like this, not like this.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 Christian Standard Bible

³ For this is God's will, your sanctification: that you keep away from sexual immorality,

- This is God's will.

We want to know what God's will is for us.

- Daily we need to be able to grow more into the image of Christ.

Spending time...

1. In prayer with God
2. In God's word.
3. With believers – who sharpening me and I sharpening them – keeping each other accountable.
4. With God's people – worshiping God and growing in our sanctification.

Day in and day out becoming more like Christ.

What is God's will for us?

- Our sanctification.

What is God's will for our lives?

1 Thessalonians 5:14-22 Christian Standard Bible

¹⁴ And we exhort you, brothers and sisters: warn those who are idle,^[a] comfort the discouraged, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ See to it that no one repays evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good for one another and for all. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray constantly, ¹⁸ give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Don't stifle the Spirit. ²⁰ Don't despise prophecies, ²¹ but test all things. Hold on to what is good. ²² Stay away from every kind of evil.

- Help the discouraged – call somebody up and invite them out for coffee or lunch.
- Help the weak – pray with them or for them.
- Be patient – how often are we short with each other.

Have we ever given consideration to the fact that God's will for us is that we are to be rejoicing always – praying constantly – giving thanks for everything?

We need to use our time obediently – not following after our own sinful pleasures – human desires – but doing the will of God.

Question – are we using our time obediently?

- Or we are frittering it away – on things that are for us?

"I want to do this; I want to do that".

- Instead of doing God's will.

We should be asking – "God what is it you want me to do today, to help build your kingdom".

Asking "God how can I use my time obediently for you"? or "God, how can I use your time that you have given to me"?

#3 – We need to realise we have wasted enough time.

1 Peter 4:3-4 Christian Standard Bible

Following Christ

³ 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. ⁴ They are surprised that you don't join them in the same flood of wild living—and they slander^{ed} you.

- Those of us who have placed our faith and trust in Jesus Christ we have been saved from that lifestyle.
- We may say – "but I haven't been involved in these things before I got saved".
- Some would say that I did waste my time in that stuff before I was saved.

The reality is if we look back at what Jesus taught – behind all of these sinful behaviours there is a heart of sin behind it.

- If we have trusted Christ as saviour, we have already spent enough time in sin – we don't need to keep doing it anymore!

We may say we haven't been involved in any of these things but...

- The word of God says - for all have sinned and fall short of God's glory!
- Any amount of sin living apart from God is more than enough time.

As God hates sin, we should hate sin and being saying "I have spent more than enough time in sin".

"I want to live obediently for God".

As we declare that we are not going to spend any more time in sin – that we have spent enough time in these things – there will be those whom we know – that we used to hang around with that will want to encourage us to continue doing those things!

“I am a believer in Jesus Christ – I am not going to do that anymore”.

- People will say – “You’re crazy – you are wasting your time – you are following after something that doesn’t matter – you are too heavenly minded to be any earthly good”!

We cannot possibly be too heavenly minded – we are told to set our affections on things above, not on things of the earth.

- Our treasures are heaven not here.

Keeping this in mind when our unsaved friends and family invite us into these things and say why don’t you come and do this and we say NO I don’t want to do that anymore, talk or think that way anymore – I am a follower of Jesus.

And in this moment, they call us names and say mean things – let us remember this last thing.

Key Point – We need to reach the lost while there is still time.

1 Peter 4:5-6 Christian Standard Bible

Following Christ

⁵They will give an account to the one who stands ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶For this reason the gospel was also preached to those who are now dead,^(e) 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.

- Family, friends, neighbours.

Question – Do we really love them enough that when the time comes, they can say I have put my faith and trust in Jesus?

⁶For this reason the gospel was also preached to those who are now dead,^{6a} 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.

- they might live in the spirit according to God's standards.

We should want everyone that we come into with to that experience.

Closing thought...

"I surrender all" – the song we sang during the service.

Question – Are we willing to surrender our time – our plans to God – are we going to live obediently to reach the lost while we still have time – are we willing to look at sin that so easily besets us and say, "I have wasted enough time on that – it is time I started doing something for the Lord".

It is responsibility to get out and share with those around us – remembering we have a limited amount of time and that we have to use it to the best of our ability for God.