

I. INTRODUCTION: WE ARE CALLED TO ENDURE AND EMBRACE UNJUST SUFFERING

- A. If we desire to live for God, we should expect unjust suffering.
- B. We follow Christ's example of enduring unjust suffering.
- C. How can we be prepared for a life like this? Peter provides us hope.

II. ARMING OURSELVES TO SUFFER BY THINKING LIKE CHRIST (1 PETER 4:1)

- A. To arm is to prepare, expect, and embrace suffering (**1 Peter 4:1a**)
- B. We arm ourselves to suffer by thinking like Christ
 - 1. Jesus accepted that he would suffer (**Mark 10:32-34, 14:60-65**)
 - 2. Jesus modeled how to endure and respond to suffering (**1 Peter 2:21-23**)
 - 3. Jesus embraced his calling to suffer out of a desire to save us (**1 Peter 3:18**)
 - 4. The ability to think like Christ comes from God (**1 Corinthians 2:12-14**)
- C. Whoever suffers like Christ has ceased from sin (**1 Peter 4:1b**)
 - 1. We are willing to put the Lord ahead of self (**Mark 8:34-35**)
 - 2. A suffering person is not sinless but free from sin (**Romans 6:6-11, 12-14**)

III. LIVING FOR GOD NOT HUMAN PASSIONS (1 PETER 4:2)

- A. Because we have ceased from sin, we no longer live for human passions
 - 1. Human passions wage war against our soul, causing relational strife (**1 Peter 2:11, 1 Corinthians 3:1-4**)
 - 2. The desires of the flesh are opposed to the Spirit (**Galatians 5:17-21**)
- B. Because we have ceased from sin, we live for the will of God (**Colossians 1:9-14**)
 - 1. Bearing fruit, growing in knowledge, enduring suffering, giving thanks.
 - 2. God has delivered us from the darkness into the kingdom of his Son.

SERMON REFLECTIONS

1. What does it mean to arm yourself?
2. Discuss the different ways in which Jesus suffered and how he handled it.
3. How is it even possible that we can think like Christ?
4. How can we be dead to sin but still struggle with sin? What has Christ done to set us free from sin's power?
5. What are some examples from your own life where human passions wage war against your soul?
6. How can we know God's will? How can we live to please him?
7. What has the Father done for us? Why is this significant as we live for him?

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD I HEARD *(CIRCLE THE ONES MENTIONED)*

| | | | |
|--------|----------|----------|----------|
| Good | Wise | Wrathful | Merciful |
| Just | Jealous | Faithful | Perfect |
| Holy | Gracious | Patient | Love |
| Other: | | | |

KEY WORDS *(WRITE WHAT THESE WORDS MEAN)*

Arm yourselves –
Suffer in the flesh –
Cease from sin –
Human passions –
Will of God –

NOTES OR DRAWINGS ABOUT WHAT I HEARD