

“Having The Mind Of Christ”

1 Peter 4:1-11

5/15/22

Message 8

Introduction

- Title of the Message is: “Having The Mind Of Christ”

- **A Reason For Suffering**

- *A Rose crushed under foot, is fragrance released;*
- *Sycamore Fruit must be cut or punctured, for it to be ripen with sweetness;*
- *Gold must be placed into the furnace, to reach full value & purity;*
- *An Old Log must be laid on the fire, before its imprisoned music is set free;*
- *We as Saints must be laid low, before we will look high;*
- *We must know His Smiting, before we know His smiling;*
- *Our Hearts must be broken, before their richest contents can leak out to bless others.*

- **Context of the Text we are in – Is all About Suffering – and Pressing on in Christ**

- **NOW Peter Knew what Paul knew**

- That everything that Israel went through was to be an example to us!

1 Corinthians 10:11 (NKJV)

11 *Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.*

- **When Trials HIT Israel in the Wilderness**

- They began to complain
- Wanted to back to the OLD life

Numbers 11:4–6 (NKJV)

4 Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat?"

5 We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic;

6 but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!"

- **The Same is TRUE with us**

- Peter knew that the first thing the early Christian would want to do when SUFFER hit
 - Was to run backwards to what they "thought" was their "good life"
- This is a natural response to the pain
 - BUT it is the WRONG response
- We must keep moving forward in Christ

- **Review**

- **Context – Persecution**

- **Following Christ in a Hostile World**
- Persecution Beginning to hit the Church
- Nero – A mad man to say the least

- **Peter Wanted to Encourage them & US**

- **1 Peter 1:1-12 - We Have Living Hope**
- **1 Peter 1:13-25 - An Appeal To Holiness**
- **1 Peter 2:1-12 – Christian Conduct**
- **1 Peter 2:13-17 - Submitting to Government**

- SO we should be the BEST CITIZENS
- 1 Peter 2:18-25 – Best Employees
- 1 Peter 3:1-7 - Silent Sermons – Selfless Husbands
- Last Week 1 Peter 3:8-22 – Be Of One Mind
 - Exhortation To Unity vs. 8-12
 - Encouragement In Suffering vs. 13-17
 - Follow The Example Of Christ vs. 18-22

• **Now This morning Peter is giving us GREAT Advice on how to move Forward in Christ amidst suffering**

- The Practices We Must Avoid vs. 1-6
- The Principles We MUST Follow vs. 7-11

The Practices We Must Avoid vs. 1-6

• **First: The Assurance vs. 1-2**

- **1st Therefore v. 1a**

1 Peter 4:1 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, *since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,*

- Why is it therefore?!
 - Taking us back to last section
 - Be Prepared to Suffer – just like Jesus (1 Peter 3:13-22)
 - Sanctify –

1 Peter 3:15 (NKJV)

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

- Set Jesus apart in your life – Meaning He is MY ALL IN ALL – the only thing I am living for
- **2nd Since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind vs. 1b**

1 Peter 4:1 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, **since Christ suffered for us in the flesh,** arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

▪ **Draws attention to the fact Jesus Suffered**

- He Suffered to bring us to glory

1 Peter 3:18 (NKJV)

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

- **3rd Make Sure we have His Mind – The Mind Of Christ v. 1c**

1 Peter 4:1 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, **arm yourselves also with the same mind,** for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

▪ **1st We MUST have the MIND of Christ**

Philippians 2:5–11 (NKJV)

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,
6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,
7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.
8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.
9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

10 *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,*
11 *and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

▪ **2nd His Mind - The Commitment God calls us to – SUFFERING**

- We BEST be READY to Suffer like Jesus did
 - We best ARM ourselves with the Same MIND of Christ
 - Prepare our hearts
 - In the last days we need to have a commitment to God that will endure through great struggles!!!
- **Examples**
 - Some experts state that several million Christians worldwide face the continual threat of harassment, torture, & even death because of their faith in Jesus Christ.
 - It is believed that more followers of Christ were martyred in the 20th century than in the previous 19 centuries combined!

▪ **4th Lesson**

- Who wants to suffer?!
 - Right – NOBODY
- But we must Remember
 - In good times the church seems to become stagnant & complacent

- In hard times, the church seems to grow & be strengthened.
- It's been said
 - The Church Persecuted is the church Pure and the Church Pure is the Church Powerful
 - We Amy need a little shake up
- We Noted on Wednesday –
 - The Bible knows nothing of the church of America
- Be Encouraged By Peter's Words
 - Peter doesn't share
 - Mushy words of condolences
 - Not even sympathy
 - **Instead powerful promises from God's word!**
 - 1st This world isn't all there is Christian
 - 2nd This world isn't your home believer
 - 3rd There is a guaranteed future too wonderful for words
 - 4th We have a unique opportunity to introduce others to the Savior
 - 5th Peter gives encouragement for endurance.
 - Practical instruction based on Christ's example in dealing with suffering.

- **2nd He who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin v. 1d**

1 Peter 4:1 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, **for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,**

- **1st Sin NO longer has POWER OVER US**

- Thanks to the victory Jesus gave us in the Death Burial Resurrection

Romans 6:1–11 (NKJV)

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.

8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- **2nd When a person suffers physical persecution for the sake of Jesus**

- It profoundly changes their outlook regarding sin and the pursuit of the lusts of the flesh!
- That person is more likely to live the rest of their time in the flesh not for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

- Grudem “Whoever has suffered for doing right, and has still gone on obeying God in spite of the suffering it involved, has made a clear break with sin.”

○ **3rd He no longer should live the rest of his time v. 2**

1 Peter 4:2 (NKJV)

2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

▪ **1st No longer should we live in sin**

- The REST of our days can be free from SIN

Matthew 5:29–30 (NKJV)

29 If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

- We should answer every temptation and sinful impulse with the reply, “no longer.”

▪ **2nd We should carefully consider how to live the rest of our time.**

- Not Pursuing the LUST of men – Our Flesh

- If God says it is a sin and we should avoid it
- What is our response to be?

- BUT FOR THE WILL OF GOD

- It's not about filling up your happy bucket –

- It's about dying to SELF and LIVING for GOD

- So how do we plan on living the REST of our days on earth?!

- Knowing that we will need to answer to HIM

- **3rd Reminders of our new condition:**

- 1st Sin Is No Longer Our Master! v. 1
- 2nd Desires / Lusts Are No Longer Our Master! v. 2a
- 3rd We Can Now Live For The Will Of God! v. 2b

- **Second: The Acts We're to Avoid v. 3**

- **1st For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles v. 3a**

1 Peter 4:3 (NKJV)

3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

- Peter realized we have all spent enough time living like the world.

- Now we are called to live like Christians.

- Guzik; “It is a profound and foolish waste of time for Christians to live like the world, and we must simply stop being double-minded and start living as Christians. Sadly, many Christians (in their heart of hearts) think that they have NOT spent enough time doing the will of the ungodly. They want to experience more of the world before they make a full commitment to godliness. This is a tragic mistake and takes a path that leads away from eternal life.”

- **2nd Sins v. 3b**

1 Peter 4:3 (NKJV)

3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—**when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.**

- **1st Peter begins a list of sins that should only mark the past life of Christians and not the present.**
 - When we look at this list
 - Lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries
 - We see we have the same problems 2000 years later
 - Nothing has changed
 - The sins listed still characterize our world today!
- **2nd Lewdness**
 - Unrestrained indulgence, primarily in sexual immorality.
- **3rd Lusts**
 - Gratification of unlawful appetites of any kind, but probably referring especially to sexual sins.
- **4th Drunkenness**
 - Giving oneself over to the control of intoxicating beverages with the resulting weakening of will-power to resist temptation.
 - There is a close link between drunkenness and immorality.
- **5th Revelries**
 - Riotous parties and late-night vandalism

- **6th Drinking parties**
 - Drinking bouts which lead to debauchery and brawls.
- **7th Abominable idolatries**
 - The worship of idols, with all the immorality that is associated with such worship.
- **8th People become like what they worship – Romans 1**
 - When they abandon the true God
 - Their moral standards are automatically lowered.
 - These lowered standards permit them to engage in all sorts of sinful pleasures for which they have an appetite.

• **Third: The Attitudes v. 4**

1 Peter 4:4 (NKJV)

4 In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.

- **1st They think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation:**
 - Dissipation – Greek; Anachysis
 - Means; Excess, recklessness
 - Refers to the state of evil in which a person thinks about nothing else. The picture here is of a large crowd running together in a mad, wild race—a melee pursuing sin.
 - When the world looks at our godly living
 - They think it strange that we do not follow them in their flood of dissipation (debauchery, wastefulness)

○ **2nd Speaking evil of you:**

- When we don't participate in the sin around us
- We convict those who practice their sin
- They don't like that
- So they speak evil of us!

• **Fourth: The Accountability v. 5-6**

1 Peter 4:5–6 (NKJV)

5 *They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.*

6 *For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.*

○ **1st They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge:**

- All who live in the sins
 - Will give an account to God
 - They will clearly see how foolish they have been.
 - PLEASE NOTE
 - Peter is not rejoicing in the fact they will give an account
 - He is simply making a point

○ **2nd For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead:**

- Peter had in mind believers who had heard and accepted the gospel of Christ when they were still alive
- But who had died by the time Peter wrote this letter.

- Perhaps, Some had been martyred for their faith.
- They were dead physically, they were alive in their spirits (Heb. 12:23)
- All their judgment had been fully put on Christ!

The Principles We MUST Follow vs. 7-11

• First: Watchful v. 7a

1 Peter 4:7 (NKJV)

7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

- **1st The end of all things is at hand**
 - End – Greek: Telos
 - Means:
 - End; termination, the limit at which a thing ceases to be (always of the end of some act or state, but not of the end of a period of time)
 - At Hand – Greek: Eggizo
 - Means:
 - To bring near, to join one thing to another; to draw or come near to, to approach
 - Serious - Sober – Greek: Sophroneo
 - Means:
 - (“safe” + “mind”) – to be of sound mind; to be in one’s right mind; to exercise self control; to put a moderate estimate upon one’s self, think of one’s self soberly; to curb one’s passions

- Watch – Greek: Nepho –

- Means:

- To be sober, to be calm and collected in spirit; to be temperate, dispassionate, circumspect

- The CALL

- He is calling believers to live obediently and expectantly in the light of Christ's return. is at hand.

- **2nd Signs Of The End**

Matthew 24:3–14 (NKJV)

3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

4 And Jesus answered and said to them: *"Take heed that no one deceives you.*

5 *For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.*

6 *And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.*

7 *For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.*

8 *All these are the beginning of sorrows.*

9 *"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.*

10 *And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.*

11 *Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.*

12 *And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.*

13 *But he who endures to the end shall be saved.*

14 *And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.*

- **3rd Lesson - SO Be Watchful**

- Pastor Lance Ralston CC Oxnard

- 63% of Adult Americans self-identify as "Christian."
 - When asked specific questions about what they believe, only 6% have a Biblical Worldview.
 - Among 18-29 year-olds only 2%.
 - Those identifying as "Evangelicals" did better at 21%
- While they did better by a significant margin
 - It still means almost 80% do NOT have a Biblical Worldview.
- What are churches doing?
- What are they teaching?
- It's clear what they are NOT doing and teaching.
- The only way the followers of Jesus are going to endure what lies ahead is if pastors speak some hard things about the cost of genuine faith and start preparing people to stay true to Jesus when the world presses in on them to turn away.

• **Second: Prayer v. 7b**

1 Peter 4:7 (NKJV)

7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

○ **1st Therefore be serious... in your prayers:**

- We must give ourselves to Serious Prayer!

- As we see the weight of eternity rushing towards us, we dare not take the need for prayer lightly.

- **2nd Lessons**

- Scale of 1-10

- Are you serious About PRAYER?
 - How Is Your Prayer Life?
 - Individually
 - Corporately if married

- Define Prayer

- *Show Pic*

- *E. M. Bounds; "The effectual, fervent prayer" has been the mightiest weapon of God's mightiest soldiers*

- Prayer aligns our heart with the Lords –
 - Not our moving God but reporting for duty
 - Prayer expresses our dependency upon the Lord –
 - Lord we need you
 - Prayer puts us in the Place to receive God's Power –
 - H.S. those who ask
 - Prayer helps us to resist temptation
 - Mark 14:38
 - Prayer helps to fight against the enemy –
 - Listed in Eph. 6

- Prayer is an Attitude of Worship at all times

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NKJV)

17 pray without ceasing,

- LETS Get SUPER SERIOUS ABOUT PRAYER –

- Praying for the BODY
- Praying for the LOST
- Praying to stand strong against temptation

- **Third: Love for one another v. 8**

1 Peter 4:8 (NKJV)

8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”

- **1st Above all things have fervent love for one another:**

- Fervent – Greek: Ektenes
 - Continuously, without ceasing
 - Deeply, earnestly, for verses and another
- Love – Greek: Agape –
 - Highest Word for LOVE
 - The Love that God has for us
- It is important for us to love those we are going to spend eternity with

- **2nd For “love will cover a multitude of sins”**

- Peter is quoted from Prov. 10:12.
- MacArthur; “It is the nature of true spiritual love, whether from God to man or Christian to Christian, to cover sins (Rom. 5:8).

This teaching does not preclude the discipline of a sinning, unrepentant church member (Matt. 18:15–18; 1 Cor. 5). It means specifically that a Christian should overlook sins against him if possible, and always be ready to forgive insults and unkindnesses.”

- *Grudem; “Where love abounds in a fellowship of Christians, many small offences, and even some large ones, are readily overlooked and forgotten. But where love is lacking, every word is viewed with suspicion, every action is liable to misunderstanding, and conflicts abound – to Satan’s perverse delight.”*

• **Fourth: Be Hospitable v. 9**

1 Peter 4:9 (NKJV)

9 *Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.*

- **1st Be hospitable to one another without grumbling:**
 - Hospitality – Greek: Philoxenos –
 - Hospitable, generous to guests
 - “Love of strangers.”
 - Love is intensely practical, not just emotional.
 - In Peter’s day –
 - Caring for the needy
 - Traveling preachers.
 - Church services.
 - Scripture also teaches that Christians should be hospitable to strangers (Ex. 22:21; Deut. 14:28, 29; Heb. 13:1, 2).

- Love will show itself in hospitality
 - Christians should often open their homes to others and doing it all without grumbling.

• **Fifth: Us the Gifts God has Given vs. 10-11**

1 Peter 4:10–11 (NKJV)

10 *As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

11 *If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

- **1st As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another:**
 - All of us have received at least one GIFT
 - There are 5 different lists of spiritual gifts in the New Testament (Rom. 12:6–8; 1 Cor. 12:7–11; 12:28–30; Eph. 4:11; 1 Pet. 4:10).
 - Love will show itself as we give to the church family what God has given us as gifts.
 - The primary place for the gift the local body you belong to!
 - Manifold grace is many-coloured grace.
 - Different gift
 - Pastor have the same gift of teaching BUT can and will be different
- **2nd If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies:**
 - Every part is important; each has its job to do.

- Even the smallest, seemingly least important part of the body of Christ is important.
- **3rd All for the Glory of God**
 - Your gift is NOT for YOU
 - It's for God and His Body

Closing

- May We Grow
 - In Understanding that Persecution is part of the Christian Life
 - That we are FREE from the Power of SIN
 - We're Called by God to live above