

CEASING TO PRACTICE SIN

INTRODUCTION

There is a difference between being subject to sin each day in a moment of weakness while trying to live a Christian life, and the general practice of sin in rebelling to God, either by never obeyed the gospel, or by turning aside it and returning to the way of the world. A powerful practice of this contrast is seen in the writing of the apostle Peter in 1 Pet. 4:1-6. (Read at this time).

Prior to conversion, one is a **sinner**, in that sin is practiced as a way of life **before conversion**. After conversion, one is a **saint**, meaning he is separated from the practice of sin, though he may sin from time to time AS a “saint,” but he has access to God’s forgiveness on a daily basis.

Our text reveals 4 reasons for OUR “**ceasing to practice sin**” as a way of life.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, we cease to practice sin because CHRIST SUFFERED FOR US.

Text of 1 Pet. 4:1: “Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin.” (Explain)

A. Christ suffering for us demonstrates God’s love for us. John 3:16

1. Christ **suffered**, alluding to His crucifixion. Matt. 16:21; Luke 24:46; Heb. 5:7-8
2. Christ suffered **for us**—even while we were lost in sin. Matt. 20:28; Rom. 5:6-9; Heb. 2:9; 1 Pet. 3:18
3. Christ suffered for us while **in the flesh**—referring to the time of His incarnation. John 1:14; Heb. 10:5-10; cf Matt. 27:28-34, 46-50

B. We are to be the “same mind”—willing to suffer. 1 Pet. 4:1A, 13 -16; 2 Tim. 3:12

1. How can we practice sin in a good conscience, knowing Christ suffered for us that we might be forgiven?
2. We should have the same attitude toward sin that Jesus had. Heb, 1:8-9; Rev. 2:6

II. 2nd, we cease to practice sin because of THE PAST OF OUR LIVES.

Text of 1 Pet. 4:3: “For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries.”

A. Suffering is often *evidence* of our having “ceased from sin.” 1 Pet. 4:1B

1. We should “**no longer**” serve the lusts of the flesh. v. 2a
2. We are **now** to do the “will of God.” v. 2b; cf 1 John 2:15-17

B. Our sins in “**time past**” are ENOUGH of serving sin. 1 Pet. 4:3

1. Some have not yet had enough of sin, and are not ready to repent and suffer for the Lord.
2. Others are too busy with material matters and sinful pleasures to even be interested in giving up their sins to be Christians and avoid the consequences of their sins in an eternal hell.
3. Still other once ceased from sin, but had a relapse into sin, wanting **again** to serve the lusts of men. 2 Pet. 2:20-22
4. We should not waste our lives by practicing things that will destroy us.

III. 3rd, we cease to practice sin because WE WANT TO INFLUENCE THE WORLD.

Text of 1 Pet. 4:4: “Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you.”

- A. God wants us to set a **good** example for the world to observe, even though they make fun of us and think that **we** are strange for doing the right thing. Matt. 5:14-16; 1 Tim. 4:12; 2 Cor. 3:2
- B. Some are indeed troubled BY our good example, and think “we” are strange for not running with them. (Study text of 1 Pet. 4:4)
 - a. They think we are strange if we not curse with them.
 - b. They think we are strange because we don’t drink alcoholic beverages and use drugs with them.
 - c. They think we are strange because we do not gamble and engage in worldly activities with them, instead of worshiping God on Sunday.
 - d. They think we are strange for not endorsing abortion and same-sex marriages.
 - e. They think we are strange for abstaining from fornication and extra-marital sex affairs as they do.
 - f. They think we are strange for thinking we can only divorce **and** remarry because of the sin of “fornication” as Jesus taught in Matt. 19:9, and do not practice divorce for any cause, as they do.
 - g. They think we are strange because we don’t send nude photos of ourselves on FACEBOOK, as teenagers and Senators do among them.
 - h. They think we are strange for insisting on legal marriages rather than just “living together” as some of them do.
 - i. They think we are strange because we don’t approve of denominations of men, instead of the one church Jesus built.
 - j. They think we are strange because we teach that Jesus built only **one** church, and do not believe that one “church” is as good as another.

IV. 4th, we cease to practice sin because A JUDGMENT DAY IS COMING.

Text of 1 Pet. 4:5-6: “Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. For for this cause also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.”

- A. Two pronouns are used in verse 5--“**who**” and “**him.**”
 - 1. The “**who**” refers to those who “speak evil” of saints—**THEY** shall give account to God. (v. 5); cf 2 Cor. 5:10
 - 2. Then, the “**him**” of verse 5 is to the One who is to do the judging—JESUS CHRIST. John 5:22; Acts 17:30-31
- B. The judgment will be **universal**—for ALL who have ever lived. Heb. 9:27
 - 1. Christ shall judge those who are “alive” (the quick, KJV) *at His coming*. 2 Tim. 4:1
 - 2. Christ will also judge those who have died, for they shall be raised. John 5:28-29
 - a. They shall be accountable to GOSPEL that they have heard. 1 Pet.4:6; John 12:48
 - b. The gospel is the good news of Christ’s sacrifice and salvation. 1 Cor. 15:1-4

CONCLUSION

- I. Are you ready for the judgment day?
 - A. The gospel is God’s power to salvation. Rom. 1:16

- B. The gospel has its requirements. Mark 16:15-16
- II. Christ will reject us if we do not love and obey the truth of God. 2 Thess. 1:6-9
- III. If you have been practicing sin, you have been doing so “long enough”, and it is time to “cease from sin”, and obey the Lord—Won’t you do so now, while we stand and sing?

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