

“THEY THINK IT STRANGE”

INTRODUCTION

Our lesson today is entitled, “They Think It Strange,” which comes from a statement made by the apostle Peter, discussing what people of the world **think** of Christians, who “no longer” live the way they choose to live. Their way is SO seemingly satisfying, that they think it “strange” that Christians do not live the same way we once lived, and no longer do so. The passage is 1 Pet. 4:1-4 (Read). Now, let’s consider the statement, “They Think It Strange.”

DISCUSSION

I. In the 1st place, WHO IS CONSIDERED “STRANGE?”

- A. In times past, the “strange” ones **had** lived to the “lusts of men.”
1. But, they have “ceased from sin” as a way of life and no longer live that way.
 2. They have seen the folly of sinful living, and following a different standard, the way of God, and are now striving to do the “will of God” rather than the will of the heathen. 1 Pet. 4:1-2; cf 1 John 2:15-17
- B. Peter gives a list of the things Christians no longer practice.
1. These are the things which the Gentiles or heathen follow that Christians do not practice that the world things we are “strange” for no longer doing.
 2. They are the things in which many Christians **once** walked. 1 Pet. 4:3
 - a. ‘Lasciviousness’--alluding to the unchaste handling of the body between males and females.
 - b. “Lusts”--alluding to the satisfying of fleshly appetites in any way possible.
 - c. “Wine”--engaging in the consumption of alcoholic or intoxicating drink, winebibbing.
 - d. “Revellings”--given to rioting, especially following intoxication. Cf 2 Pet. 2:13; Gal. 5:21
 - e. “Banquetings”--drinking parties, again the influence of alcohol.
 - f. “Abominable idolatries”--participation in any idolatrous activities or feasts.

II. In the 2nd place, WHY ARE CHRISTIANS CONSIDERED “STRANGE?”

- A. 1st, because Christians follow a **different standard**, the “will of God” rather than the will that the world follows, which admits to doing **whatever one chooses to do**.
1. Christians now follow the “will” of God. 1 Pet. 4:2
 2. Many HAD followed the “will of the Gentiles”--a worldly standard. v. 3
- B. 2nd, because Christians no longer “run with them”, whose standard is popular and more generally accepted, for Christians have found better company. 1 Cor. 15:33
1. The world things Christians must be strange for giving up that which is so enjoyable as the most common way of life.
 2. They choose to “speak evil” of those who have turned away from their corruptible life style. Cf Exo. 23:2; Rom. 12:1-2
- C. 3rd. because we are different, and do not to the same thing they do.
1. They follow a different standard (their own will) that “everybody is doing it.”
 2. They assume their “majority” way is the accepted way and anything else and those who do not follow **their** standard must be out of their minds.
 3. To not be in the “majority” makes Christians (who are in the minority) “strange.”

CONCLUSION

- I. No doubt people have long felt that those doing God's will were strange.
 - A. In Noah's day, the world mocked Noah as being strange in building the ark.
 - B. There are different ways the world may "say" we are strange.
 1. They say we are strange by believing in a God out there somewhere we can't see.
 2. They say we are strange for believing there is only one true church.
 3. They say we are strange for not drinking a little alcohol when we are thirsty.
 4. They say we are strange that a husband can't have a woman on the side for a little more pleasure in life.
 5. They think we are strange to follow only the Bible in religion.
 6. They mock if we say the world will someday come to an end.
 - C. If God is on our side, we ARE a majority. Rom. 8:31
 1. It is better to be right with God than with the world. Jas. 4:4
 - a. Doing the "will of God" is **not** running with the crowd and is not truly strange, though "strange" in the eyes of God is that of doing what He has not authorized. Cf Lev. 10:1-2
 - b. God doesn't "think" like men do, who "think" **we** are strange. Isa. 55:8-9
 - c. So, doing God's will is only strange to those who are **not** doing the will of God, but the will of the lost.
 2. The time will come when we ALL (the righteous and the wicked) will have to give account to the Lord for our life's decisions and practices. 1 Pet. 4:5; 2 Cor. 5:10-11
 3. It is better to be thought "strange" in the eyes of the world rather than in the eyes of God.
- II. Are you ready to give an account to the Lord for your life on earth?
 - A. If you are not a Christian, now is a good time to confess your faith in Christ as the Son of God, repent of every sin, and be immersed in water to be forgiven of all past sins.
 - B. If you have been baptized, but have not acknowledged your departure from God, won't you do so today, while you have the opportunity?

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