

I Peter Sermon LIVING FOR GOD
I Peter 4:1-11

As we conclude our series on I Peter
 We end with Peter wanting to emphasize
 that Christians need to live a Godly life.
 The world is watching us.
 What we do does make a difference.

Did you hear about the two men from the gas company.
 They were out checking meters in a suburban neighborhood.
 At the end of the alley at the last house
 the woman was looking out her kitchen watching the two men
 as they check her gas meter.
 When they finished --the older man challenged his younger coworker to a
 foot race back to the truck. As they came running up to the truck, they
 realized the lady from that last house was huffing and puffing right behind
 them. They stopped and asked her what was wrong. Gasping for breath, she
 replied, "When I see two men from the gas company running as hard as you
 two were, I figured I'd better run too!"

The world is watching us.

They're looking for clues that make the difference in your life
 From eeking out an ordinary existence
 To living the extraordinary life.

If we're going to show that to the world,
 We must get serious about our walk with Christ,
 For many of us the only thing that stands
 between us and God's blessing is inertia.
 The sooner we get up, and move,
 the sooner the windows of heaven can open.

Peter wanted his new Church to make the rest of the time count
 for eternity. So he give them this advice.

I. HAVE THE ATTITUDE OF CHRIST.

As you live in this world.

Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. I Peter 4:1

What is the attitude of Christ?

Keep reading.. **because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin.**

A. BE DONE WITH SIN

How do we do that?

Peter says:

Think of what Sin did to Jesus.

Christ suffered in his body.

How can we enjoy that which made Jesus suffer and die?

Our goal in life is to cease from sin.

Arm yourselves with that attitude and Be done with sin.

I hear people say: What so hard about that?

I don't drink anymore, cheat on my wife,

Don't beat the dog,

Work a honest days work. Enjoy myself.

Sin is so subtle.

An ethics instructor at a university asked a class of business majors, "What would you do?" A man's car phone is stolen, and his employer has already paid for a new one when a check arrives from the insurance company covering it.

- a. Do you keep the money?
- b. Return the check?
- c. Or do you give it to your employer?

Half the class said they'd keep the money and not say anything.

What is amazing is the other half of the students who acted ethically themselves, didn't make any effort to change their minds.

They treated stealing not as a matter of universal principle but only individual decision.

The notion that is running through our society
Is the assumption that people are innately good.

They will clearly choose what is right.

But it doesn't work that way.

I heard a college girl say: When she was a freshman
 She saw so much pornography in their dorm.
 That it shocked her.
 Now as a senior she says:
 “Its just disgusting.”

Our attitudes are like equipment that a soldier puts on for battle.
 We must have the right attitude if were to live a right life.
 And weak or wrong attitudes will lead us to defeat.

It wasn't too long ago that Donna and I were at a resturant in the evening.
 It was one of those places where you need a miners helmet to find your
 table. But after we had been seated awhile.
 I was amazed how I could read the menu.
 It doesn't take us long to get accustomed to the darkness.

Christians in America are being acclimatize to the darkness.
 We are tolerating evil in an ever increasing way.
 Peter understood this for the early chruch
 And he didn't want them getting taken in by darkness.
 So he insisted that they have a militant attitude
 that hates the sin, and loves the sinner.
 How do we do that.

B. ENJOY THE WILL OF GOD

As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God I Peter 4:2

There is a contrast between the desires of men and the will of God.
 When Christ changes our lives.
 We desire to do the will of God.
 We will invest the rest of our time in that which is lasting and satisfying.
 This is not a burden.
 Because the will of God comes from the heart of God.

Psalms 33:11 But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever the purposes of his heart through all generations. Psalms 33:11

C. REMEMBER WHAT YOU WERE BEFORE YOU MET CHRIST.

For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.I Peter 4:3

There are times when looking back in your life can be wrong.
And Satan can USE THOSE MEMORIES TO DEFEAT YOU.

**Like Israel remember back to Egypt about the food of onions and garlic.
and it was very destructive. In Deuteronomy 5:15**

But Paul remember that he had been a persecutor of believers

13Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.

14The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. I Timothy 1:13-14

REMEMBERING encouraged him to do more for Christ.

Just how good is your memory?

Is it changing your lifestyle for the better for Christ?

At the age of 88 Glynn Wolfe died alone in Los Angeles.

The paper said: No one came to claim his body.

He was buried in an unmarked grave.

But Glynn Wolfe held the *Guinness Book* of records as the Most Married Man, in the world. 29 times he was asked, "Do you take this woman to be your lawfully wedded wife...forsaking all others do you pledge yourself only to her, so long as you both shall live?" 29 times Glynn Wolf said, "I Do," but he never quite remembered. He died leaving behind children, grandchildren, great grand-children, ex-wives, and innumerable ex-in-laws—and still, he died alone.

Friends human nature is fallen.

We are born into sin.

And all the reasoning in the world can't make us good.

If you want a theology of perfection become a muslim.

They believe you are born into Perfection.

But one look at our human hearts and we know something is wrong.

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Psalms 51:5

The Bible says the heart is desperately wicked.

We need a savior even from birth.

Peter says:Once we were lost.---Now we are found.

I. WE NEED TO HAVE THE ATTITUDE OF CHRIST TOWARD SIN AND SALVATION.

The second thing Peter says to the Church is

II. WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE ATTITUDE OF THE UNSAVED. LOST

Of course, your former friends will be very surprised when you don't eagerly join them any more in the wicked things they do, and they will laugh at you in contempt and scorn. I Peter 4:4

A. PETER SAYS THEY WILL THINK YOUR STRANGE.

Unsaved people do not understand the radical change that is experienced when you become child of God. Nobody thinks it strange when people wreck their bodies, destroy their homes, kill their families, have babies out of wedlock, or ruin their lives by running from one sin to another.

They expect it.

British journalist Henry Fairlie writes : We are a society that “wait in ambush for the novel that fails, the poet who commits suicide, the financier who is a crook, the politician who slips, the pastor who is discovered to be an adulterer. So we can gloat at their misfortunes...And he said: we fell cheated by our newspapers and magazines if no one is leveled in the dust by them. P67 A Dangerous Grace' C Colson

Think of our recent obsession with the empty life and death of Anna Nicole Smith. Were obsessed, but the world treats this as normal. Compares her to other with drug overdoses in the world of fame.

That's why when a person become a Christian

And becomes free of addictions and

Cleans up his act,

Find a healthy relationship .

Live a moral life.

People and friends thinks he's lost his mind.

Peter says:

B. THEY HEAP ABUSE ON YOU.

Of course, your former friends will be very surprised when you don't eagerly join them any more in the wicked things they do, and they will laugh at you in contempt and scorn. I Peter 4:4

Festus told Paul “You are out of your mind. Acts 26:24

and people even thought the same thing of our Lord. Mark 3:21

When a person becomes a Christian.
 He is scorned, not only because he refuses to participate in certain activities,
 But because he is heading in another direction.
 His very life incriminates their sinful activities.
 In their ignorance they laugh at you,
 Even abuse you.

But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. I Peter 4:5

The unsaved world may judge us today,
 But one day God will judge them.
 Instead of arguing with them
 We should pray for them.

God is merciful..

He will go to great extremes so that you can understand.
 Noah's flood occurred before Jesus had died for our sins.
 They never heard the Good News of salvation, so God gave them a second chance

**Peter says: God had the good news preached even to those who were dead—killed by the flood---so that although their bodies were punished with death, they could still live in their spirits as God lives. I Peter 4:6
 LB**

We must have as much patience and pity on the unsaved.
 They just don't get it.

Dispatching her ten-year-old son to pick up a pizza, his mother handed him money and a two-dollar coupon. Later he came home with the pizza, and the coupon. When asked to explain, he replied, "Mom, I had enough money. I didn't need the coupon."

He didn't get it.

Like the person who read all about all those cars going through the ice, So she bought a lifesaving tool for her car. It's designed to cut through a seatbelt if she gets trapped in the car, She keeps it in the trunk.

Christ has come.

We have no excuse because we get it.
 And you should get it,
 Because I've been preaching it for 20 years.
 Jesus died for us and our salvation.
 And a lost world needs to see us live it.

The last thing Peter does is to give his people

III. THE NEW TEN COMMANDMENT FOR GODLY LIVING

1. Be clear minded and self controlled. Vs 7

The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. I Peter 4:7

2. WATCH PRAYERFULLY vs 7b

Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. I Peter 4:7

3. LOVE DEEPLY vs. 8

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. I Peter 4:8

4. CARE HOSPITABLY vs 9

9Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. I Peter 4:9

Several women were visiting elderly Mrs. Diamond who was very ill. After a while, they rose to leave and told her, "Esther, we will keep you in our prayers." The ailing woman said: "Just wash the dishes in the kitchen, I can do my own praying."

5. GIVE GENEROUSLY vs 10

10Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. I Peter 4:10

It was Jesus who came up with the original comprehensive health package.

Feed the hungry, care for the sick; look after the widow and orphan.

What seems so ironic, is the very religion Christianity, that feeds the world, offer salvation by grace and forgiveness from sin, Takes so much heat in the process.

6. SPEAK GRACIOUSLY VS. 11

If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God... I Peter 4:11

7. SUFFER PATIENTLY v14

But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. I Peter 4:14

8. LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY VS 15

If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. I Peter 4:15

A professor gave a big test to his students one day.

When he got them back One of the students had attached a \$100 bill to his test with a note saying: A dollar per point. The next day the student got back his test, his grade of 36 and \$64 change.

We might just study.

9. GLORIFY GOD OPENLY VS 16

However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. I Peter 4:16

10 COMMIT COMPLETELY VS 19

So if you are suffering according to God's will, keep on doing what is right and trust yourself to the God who made you, for he will never fail you. I peter 4:19

These are the practical guidelines Peter gave for holy living.

Be Soberminded and intellectually sound.

Watch and pray.

This was particularly meaningful to Peter,

Because he had fallen asleep when he should have been watching and praying. **Mark 14:37-40**

Or Are you asleep in your faith.

Are you living a holy Life?

I CHALLENGE you to sign this agreement today.

For a Godly life.

Almighty God,

I hereby resign as directing superintendent of my own life and of the world. I cannot level all the mountains of injustice or fill the valleys of selfishness.

There is too much of the world in me. I hereby turn my life, my money, my time, and my talents over to your disposal. I accept YOU as Lord and

Savior. Your Obedient servant,

Would you sign and date that today?

Signed: _____ Date _____