

PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORIA:

TESTIMONY AND CONVICTION PRODUCED BY THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Houses of Light Church • October 15-16, 2022 • Pastor Netz Gómez

1 Pet. 4:3-4

"For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. 4 With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you;"

I. QUICK REVIEW

- A. Last time we talked about the previous verse that tells us that we must arm ourselves with a way of thinking like the one that Christ had which leads us to stop sinning to live the rest of the time that we have left in this body in the will of God.
- B. This section of the letter speaks of three moments: what we did in the past, conversion and now that we live in the will of God and Peter says: ***"the time that is past suffices"*** do you want to know how long is enough to live in sin? You can be 7 years old or 67 and that is enough to have lived in sin.
- C. There are those of us who used to live the way it says here but we were rescued by Jesus and now we are living in the will of God. There are those who say: 'I'm going to live as I want and when this old man I repent and approach God' but God is saying: the bad things you've done are enough, don't do it anymore.
- D. ***v.5 " but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead."*** One of the reasons that the past time is enough to sin is because if you continue to live in evil desires, you may meet God's judgment unprepared. Very few people have been able to repent when they are old and have lived a wild life.

II. THE DECAY OF A LIFE WITHOUT GOD

1 Pet. 4:3b "...living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry."

- A. There is a sequence in this list of things that those who do not know God do: sensuality is giving rein to the desires of the body and those desires lead people to be tied to all kinds of addictions such as alcohol, pornography, laziness, gluttony and others and in that race of debauchery other people join you to have parties and orgies. In this context, sinners encourage each other to go deeper into sin, culminating in abominable idolatries, abandoning the only true God..

III. THE DOUBLE EDGE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

1 Pet. 4:4 "With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you;"

- A. When we leave the kind of life we had we can face an attack or insults from those with whom we had been involved and they are surprised that we are not in the same anymore. We should not be surprised that they are surprised because we have changed or that they insult us.
- B. The Christian life is both a testimony of love to the world that hopes to be a blessing to those who do not believe, but it is also a separation from the world that can make them angry with us.
- C. **v.4b "you do not join them..."** The sequence that occurs is that separation from the world can lead to them insulting us and if they don't repent they will eventually give an account to God. This is an edge of Christianity. We separate ourselves from the world, we are willing to suffer for this and we leave the revenge to the Lord. But Peter's letter is repetitive in his statement that we have to do good deeds to win the world..

1 Pet. 2:12 "Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation."

1 Pet. 2:15 "For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people."

1 Pet. 3:16 "having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame."

- D. So in all of these passages we see the emphasis on having a good conduct that may at first produce a bad response, that they speak ill of us but hopefully eventually the conviction of the Holy Spirit will shame their slander and lead them to glorify God.
- E. **The world likes us to do good things but it doesn't like knowing that you're not going to do what you used to do.** We do not want there to be Christians who suffer mistreatment, rather we strive to be the kind of people that the world says: 'I want to be like you' and give glory to God; but by disapproving of all their bad behavior they will call us religious, old-fashioned, square, critical, they will tell us that we provoke hatred and we will be outraged.
- F. To the world you will look like a fool and they will tell you that they are the ones who are right and that you are wrong; that you are not open that they are fair and loving with everyone and that they are fine in telling you that you are wrong for believing that you are very good but we must remain firm and in love.

Jas. 1:27 "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world"

- G. **This verse speaks of these two edges of Christianity:** on the one hand we visit widows and orphans in their afflictions and the world will see this and applaud it and may be attracted to Christianity but the other fundamental aspect of the Christian life is keep yourself undefiled from the world. When

we give the world the impression that much of their behavior is dirty and that we are not going to participate in it, they are going to be angry with us. That we be both things that the Bible calls us to be and that those who see us decide how they will respond if they are going to believe the gospel or be angry with us..

IV. GOD WILL DEAL WITH YOUR ENEMIES

1 Pet. 4:5 *"but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead."*

- A. Is it okay as Christians to be comforted by the assurance that our enemies will be judged? Or is that vindictive or unloving? As we said, there are people who are going to attack us because we no longer want to sin with them, now we want to live in a way that pleases the Lord and Peter says **"they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead"**
- B. It may seem now that the scoffers have everything going for them, yet they will give an account to God either in this life or when they die. God is going to come and judge the living who have been against Him and also those who have already died (**2 Tim. 4:1**).
- C. If you live under this kind of critical environment for forty years and they're your enemies and they're thriving at everything they do and they make your life miserable and they die and you die too and it seems like they had the upper hand for those forty years They really don't because the Lord is going to judge the dead as well as the living.
- D. No one can escape judgment, all pending accounts are going to be settled, and this truth is given to us so that we have courage in the face of all injustice because in the end everything is going to change; comes the Great White Throne Judgment (**Rev. 20:11**). So we can be encouraged or comforted as we consider the coming judgment. Jesus experienced this kind of injustice and when they cursed him he did not respond with a curse, he showed his love and did not threaten.

1 Pet. 2:22-23 *"He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly."*

- E. When the moral sense arose in someone as godly as Jesus while the wicked reviled him; He continued to commit His cause to the Judge just. On the cross itself He knew that what was happening to Him was unfair but He loved them dying for them but the truth is that they were not going to get away with it. So what Jesus did was he handed it over to the Father who judges justly. This is the same attitude we should have.

Rom. 12:19-20 *"Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give*

him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."

- F. This was what Jesus did and what we must do. If they repent, they will receive the coals of repentance, but if they do not repent, they will receive the coals of judgment.

2 Thes. 1:6-8 "since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷ and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels ⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus."

- G. The Conclusion is that throughout the New and Old Testaments it is good for believers who are mistreated and outraged by evil people, to love these wicked until the end of their lives praying that God blesses them by saving them knowing that if they do not repent in the end they are not going to get away with it but justice is going to be done; therefore do not be discouraged, you do not need to take revenge now leave it in the hands of God as Jesus did.

V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it so dangerous to give in to sensuality?
2. What are the two sides of the Christian life seen in this teaching and how have you lived them?
3. Is it right to take comfort that God is going to judge the wicked? Why?

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Our Prophecy Rooms will be open this Wednesday, October 19 at 7:00 p.m. Please make an appointment at www.nhop.la
2. Our School for Parents starts on Wednesday, October 19, at 7:00 p.m. Please register at www.housesoflight.org
3. Our family event Hallelujah Night! is Monday October 31 from 4:00 p.m.
4. Our House of Restoration ministry is now available in person. For more information or to register you can go to the table at the entrance.