



### Lesson #13: Fortification in the Face of Ridicule (1 Peter 4:1-6)

Remember the little phrase you used in elementary school? “Sticks and stones may break my bones but words may never hurt me.” What a lie that is. The terror of the tongue is very powerful. Many believers have found themselves vilified, ostracized, criticized, and even verbally victimized for the Lord. Quite honestly, some Christians are \_\_\_\_\_ about their relationship with their Savior rather than risking being ridiculed.

The Scriptures make it clear that it’s just not unusual for a Christian to be verbally or otherwise accosted because they want others to know that they live for Jesus. How do you prepare for this? How should you prepare to be treated unjustly by friends, coworkers, and sometimes family because of \_\_\_\_\_? If you want to know how to fortify yourself and be prepared when you are slandered for your Savior I can think of no better passage to turn to than the one we are in this morning. I find here 3 fortifying truths that teach us that **even in the face of \_\_\_\_\_ God wants you to \_\_\_\_\_ for Him.**

#### BE FORTIFIED BY \_\_\_\_\_ ON CHRIST’S FULFILLING REDEMPTION (4:1)

The first fortifying truth is found in verse 1 and has to do with your example, who is Jesus Christ. Peter says we are to \_\_\_\_\_ on Him.

- A. Ruminare on the \_\_\_\_\_ of His suffering**  
I have circled in my Bible the little phrase “\_\_\_\_\_” that appears at the beginning of verse 1. Here is the purpose of Christ’s suffering set forth before me. Christ suffering in my place. Over and over again this little letter gives to us the wonderful theme of \_\_\_\_\_ (2:21; 2:24; 3:18). The theme of substitution is the theme that most humbles the believer.
- B. Ruminare on the \_\_\_\_\_ that is set**  
When we are teased and ridiculed according to this text we are to “*arm [ourselves] likewise with the same mind*” (4:1). We are to put around ourselves that armament of His \_\_\_\_\_. When Christ suffered He did so intentionally and knowingly.

#### BE FORTIFIED BY \_\_\_\_\_ IN YOUR FREEDOM FROM SIN (4:1b-4)

Your enslavement to sin has been broken. In times past you lived in one way but no longer because now we find our greatest joy in a relationship with God.

- A. You are free to follow the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (v. 1b-2)**  
It is because your enslavement to sin has been broken that these next verses make sense to us. You are now concerned about \_\_\_\_\_. God. This is the burden that Peter is trying to convey. You must realize that sin no longer has a claim to your life. Christ has power over it!
- B. You are free to flee from the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world (v. 3-4)**  
Peter says that the believer’s duty in following the world is \_\_\_\_\_. Verse 4 pictures the world in a frenzied race towards all sorts of wicked pleasures. As Christians we have been delivered from these frantic pursuits of the world. Not only is sin not our master but neither is the \_\_\_\_\_. Christ redeemed us from the world – why should we want to go back?

#### BE FORTIFIED BY \_\_\_\_\_ GOD’S FINAL JUDGEMENT (4:4-6)

Our expectation of God’s coming judgement actually alters our behavior when we are being ridiculed for righteousness sake.

- A. God’s judgement is \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 4-5)**  
Here in this passage, Peter encourages the believers who were suffering abuse by saying that ultimately the world will give an account to \_\_\_\_\_ for their sins which in this context includes the persecution and ridicule of believers. Peter encourages us with the same truth that comforted Asaph. It may seem like the world is carefree as they enjoy sin and mock righteousness, but (as Asaph states) “*the ground they stand on is \_\_\_\_\_*” (Psalm 27:18).
- B. God’s redemption is \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 6)**  
It is the Gospel of Christ’s redemption of man that allows the believer to take up his cross and die for Christ. He knows that he is going to heaven. This truth has enabled many believers from the beginning of the church to give their \_\_\_\_\_ for Christ.

#### Concluding Thoughts

Even in the face of opposition God wants you to stand up for Him. But Peter had a \_\_\_\_\_ time with this at first. You remember how when Peter was in the Garden of Gethsemane with Christ, Peter decided to be a warrior. Instead of seeing the Lord being arrested Peter pulled out the \_\_\_\_\_ and cut off Malchus’ ear (John 18:10). Peter had a hard time being ridiculed for doing right. But the Spirit of God teaches Him, and so teaches us, that you can stand up in the face of opposition and you can do it in God’s strength and not in your own flesh.