

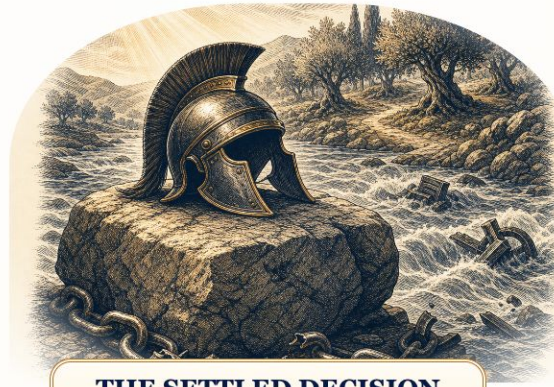


A MIND MADE UP

1 PETER 4:1-6

A settled mind will suffer rather than return to sin.

Peter calls believers to put on the mind of Christ before suffering comes: the Father's will matters more than the flesh, the crowd, or the world's verdict.



THE SETTLED DECISION
I will suffer rather than sin.

KEY VERSES

1 Peter 4:1
"Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind..."

1 Peter 4:2
"...live the rest of his time... not... to the lusts of men, but to the will of God."

1 Peter 4:4
"They think it strange that ye run not with them..."

1 Peter 4:6
"...judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit."

1 ARM YOURSELVES WITH HIS MIND

4:1

MIND

- Christ's resolve is our armor.
- We do not seek pain.
- We settle obedience before the battle.
- The Father's will matters more than escape.

"Arm yourselves likewise with the same mind."

2 CEASED FROM SIN

4:1

BREAK

- Not sinless perfection.
- A decisive break with sin's rule.
- Union with the crucified Christ.
- Finished bargaining with the old life.

"He that hath suffered... hath ceased from sin."

3 THE REST OF YOUR TIME

4:2-3

TIME

- The old life has had enough years.
- The flesh never arrives at "enough."
- Spend what remains on God's will.
- Stop drinking salt water; come to the well.

"The time past... may suffice us."

4 TWO COURTS TWO VERDICTS

4:4-6

LIFE

- The world thinks holiness strange.
- Answer scorn with compassion.
- Every person will give account to Christ.
- Judged by men; alive to God.

"Live according to God in the spirit."

KEY TRUTHS

- Christlike resolve is armor before suffering.
- "Ceased from sin" means broken allegiance, not perfection.
- The old life has already had enough time.
- Compassion replaces superiority.
- Men's verdict is not God's last word.

GREEK WORD INSIGHTS

οπλισασθε (hoplisasthe) — "arm yourselves"

A soldier's word: equip yourselves with Christ's settled resolve. (4:1)

εννοιαν (ennoian) — "mind, intention"

More than a passing thought: a settled way of thinking and purpose. (4:1)

πεπαυται (pepautai) — "has ceased"

A completed break with sin's ruling claim, not sinless perfection. (4:1)

ανάχυσιν (anachysin) — "flood, outpouring"

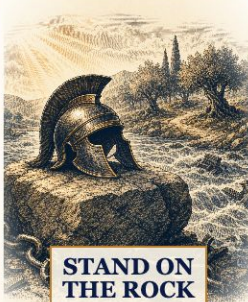
The vivid picture behind the world's "excess of riot." (4:4)

THE CURRENT SAYS

- Pleasure is freedom.
- Keep running with the crowd.
- Mock anyone who stands still.
- Men's verdict is the last word.

PETER SAYS

- Obedience is freedom.
- The time past is enough.
- Warn with compassion.
- God's verdict is final.



STAND ON THE ROCK

HOW THIS CHANGES OUR LIVES



RESOLVE
Decide before suffering comes.



HOLINESS
Stop bargaining with sin.



TIME
Live what remains for God's will.



MERCY
See the crowd with compassion.



COURAGE
Fear the higher court.



HOPE
Trust the verdict of life.

THE BOTTOM LINE

The current feels like freedom and ends in judgment. The Rock feels like loss and ends in life. Arm yourself with the mind of Christ and spend the rest of your time on the will of God.

- The time past is enough.
- The rest of your time belongs to God.
- The verdict of life is already written in Christ.



TEACHER NOTE

Peter does not teach sinless perfection or a hunger for pain. "Ceased from sin" describes a decisive break with sin's rule, lived out by union with Christ and willingness to suffer rather than sin.

- Suffering does not create sinlessness.
- Peter does not call believers to seek pain.
- Verse 6 speaks of believers who heard the Gospel and later died.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- What have I decided before suffering comes?
- Where am I still bargaining with sin?
- Am I spending the rest of my time on God's will?
- Do I answer the world's scorn with pride or compassion?
- Which verdict do I fear most: men's or God's?