

**Refuge City Church — February 28, 2021**  
**“Hope-Filled Life” (1 Peter 4:1-11)**

**Introduction/Illustration:**

- REMINDER: As we work through all these concepts and applications of living a life full of hope, we'd be living a moralistic therapeutic deist lifestyle if we didn't remember to place Jesus at the center-focus of it all!
  - In 5 chapters/105 total verses = the name of Jesus is mentioned or referred to at least 60 times! **[not counting the name of God]**
  - True hope in this life only comes by living a Jesus-centric life... Not me-istic.

**Verses 1-6**

**1** Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, **2** so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. **3** 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; **5** but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. **6** For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.

- What is the suffering Christ went through?
  - Most may immediately think of His final suffering on the cross.
  - But let's consider the entirety of his time on earth.
    - The undignified conditions of His birth.
    - Family forced to flee to Egypt under threat of murder.
    - Lived essentially a homeless life during His ministry years.
    - Suffered temptation
    - Constantly despised and rejected by others, including his family.
    - Betrayed and denied by those closest to Him.
    - Tortured, crucified, and for a moment, had His Father turn away.
  - Yet, at every turn, Jesus continued to trust in His Father's will for His life.
    - He spiritually fought those daily battles, temptations, persecutions, and sufferings with grace, love, compassion, and scripture.
      - **1 Peter 3:18,22**, “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,... who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.”
      - **Hebrews 4:15**, “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.”
- So we ought to live in the same way.

- **QUESTION:** How we are to “arm ourselves” with holy, pure, grace-filled thinking **[attitude of gratitude]**
    - **Romans 12:2**, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind...”
    - **Colossians 3:2**, “Set your **minds** on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”
    - **Philippians 3:13-15**, “Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you... **[Phil. 4:8]** “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”
  - When you purposefully seek to live a pure life, you will be ‘maligned’ **[pushed aside, made fun of, called intolerant, bigoted, non-inclusive, etc. etc.]**
    - **WHY?** Because sin no longer has dominion over you! You are aware of it, but it doesn’t control you and/or affect your decision-making.
    - **QUOTE:** “Jesus suffered for your sin. How can we enjoy that which made Jesus suffer and die on the cross?!” [Warren Wiersbe]
    - **Romans 6:1-2, 7, 12**, “What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?... For one who has died has been set free from sin... Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.”
    - **1 John 3:8-9**, “Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.”
  - God’s Word warns us “to be careful how you live.” **[Ephesians 5:15]**
    - When we consciously choose to live apart from sin, we will be persecuted. But this is God’s will for us.
    - Our life in Christ validates the gospel as it’s presented to unbelievers.
- 6** For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.
- Acts 26: Paul before King Agrippa **[verses 24-29]**
  - Testimony: “Tales of 2 Parties”

## Verses 7-11

**7** The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. **8** Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. **9** Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. **10** As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: **11** whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- Knowing that our life “is but a vapor” **[James 4:14]**, we should live in a way that constantly & consistently honors Christ as Lord... no matter what may come or happen.
- “The end of all things” = Either Christ will return, or our life will come to an end.
  - Regardless, life on Earth will cease.
- So consider the following:
  1. **Your prayer life**
    - Two aspects of being righteous before God: self-control and sober-minded **[orderly, restrained, awake, calm, and vigilant]**
    - **Matthew 26:41**, “Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” **[Peter’s testimony/lesson learned]**
    - In the context of suffering & persecution:
      - **1 Thessalonians 5:17** — Pray at **all** times; good times and bad.
      - **1 Timothy 2:1** — Pray for **all** people; even the haters.
      - **Hebrews 4:16**, “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”
  2. **Love others**
    - **1 John 4:7-8**, “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because **God is love.**”
    - Who did God send His Son into the world to save? **[Everyone]**... Therefore, we ought to strive to love those who are difficult to love, especially those who are the source of our suffering.
    - “Love covers a multitude of sins” **[Proverbs 10:12]**
      - Love and forgiveness allows you to live according to how God wants you to live... You don’t have to live in bitterness, anger, anxiety, or fear. You are free.
      - On the other side, if someone comes to you, confessing sin or desiring to be free, your love for them can save them from a future of ongoing sin and pain in their life.
  3. **Hospitality**
    - Welcoming of others; not under compulsion.
  4. **Service**
    - Everyone has been given a gift... use it.
  5. **Speech**
    - A word from God is just that... God’s word, not our own.

**Colossians 3:17**, “And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

## Response/Prayer

1. Consider the gifting God has given you. How are you using them for His glory?
2. How can we make our time on earth count in light of eternity?