



FOREIGNERS & EXILES

HOW SUFFERING WORKS:
OBEDIENCE

1 PETER 4:1-5

Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. 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. They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

1 Peter 4:1-5

What is the *Therefore*, There for?

Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude...

1 Peter 4:1

Indicative=Christ suffered







Christ suffered in his body, but didn't
disconnect from his suffering

"There they offered Jesus wine to drink,
mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he
refused to drink it."

Matthew 27:34

According to an old tradition, respected women of Jerusalem provided a narcotic drink to those condemned to death in order to decrease their sensitivity to the excruciating pain... When Jesus arrived at Golgotha he was offered... wine mixed with myrrh (or gall), but he refused it, choosing to endure with full consciousness the sufferings appointed for him.

-William Lane, The Gospel of Mark Commentary

Someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."

Matthew 27:47-49

Even those Christians who do not suffer persecution for the faith are called to the suffering of self-denial. Sin is often thought of as being motivated by the temptation for pleasure. But perhaps the real power of sin lies in the avoidance of pain and suffering. It is better to suffer unfulfilled needs and desires than to sin. Is this not what self-denial means? Jesus linked self-denial with following in his footsteps when he said, "Those who would be my disciples must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34). For instance, isn't the temptation to lie often an attempt to save face rather than face the consequences of the truth? Isn't the temptation to cheat on an exam an unwillingness to suffer the loss of reputation or other consequences that failure might bring? Isn't sexual sin often the alternative to suffering by living with deep emotional and physical needs unmet? According to Peter, the pain and suffering that self-denial brings is a godly suffering that is better than yielding to sin.

Karen Jobes, Commentary on 1 Peter

The Dragon, Cancer

