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Living Out Our Baptismal Confession

Renouncing our old life

1 Peter 4:1-6

In light of Christ’s willingness to suffer so that you might escape eternal judgment, how then should you live?

**Background Context**

Christ willingly experienced physical harm to bring eternal spiritual gain (3:17-18)

Eternal judgment is real – baptism is a symbol of rescue from a deserved watery grave (3:21).

***Therefore***, since Christ suffered, salvation is available, and eternal judgment is real, how do the genuinely saved live?

1. You take on this **attitudinal** mindset 🡪 “I will obey God’s will and suffer, rather than disobey and sin” (3:17; 4:1).

* Motivation – to be “done with sin”
* Sin is finally tamed when obeying God is more important to you than avoiding hardship.
* Our baptismal promise – to repent of sin and to be raised to new life in Christ.

2. You make a complete break from your old **ambitions** so that you can live out your entire earthly life for the will of God (4:2).

* Deciding to endure pain rather than disobey God moves you to the spiritual big leagues.
* You must make a complete break from feelings (“evil human desires”) as your guide, in favour of God’s word/will.

3. The right attitude will shape the right ambitions which will enable you to say no to life-killing **activities** (4:3).

* You may have already used up more than enough of your life chasing the wrong desires
* Living for Christ-means saying goodbye to activities of unbelievers:
* Sex with everybody and anybody
* Violent behaviour
* Getting drunk
* Wild partying with unrestrained sex and drinking
* Demonic priorities

4. You stop **associating** (“running with”) with this flesh-fixated crowd even though they abuse you for abandoning the lifestyle (4:4-5).

* Cost? –Escaping from the tsunami of unrestrained indulgence will be taken personally as disapproval.
* “Bad company corrupts good character” (1 Cor. 15:33) – Will you make the break or remain ashamed of Jesus?
* All people will be held accountable – death is not an escape from accountability, it ushers you into the epicentre of it.

5. The reason the gospel is preached (4:6)…

* Death is God’s judgment on sin; if not redeemed (saved), death is eternal and permanently painful.
* The gospel received, enables people, although physically judged by physical death (Rom. 6:23; Heb. 9:27), to live in the Spirit like God for eternity.

ARE YOU SAVED?

ARE YOU LIVING THE SAVED LIFE?