



Words of Grace for Troubled Times

How to Live in the Flesh



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► **One Main Point:** Because death does not have the last word in God's plan, Christians should pursue holiness as they suffer for God's purposes.

Armed for Suffering

- A mindset to emulate
- A point of no-return
 - "ceased from sin?"
 - Four possibilities
 - Suffering for *the sake of righteousness in obedience to God's will* powerfully confirms that one has genuinely turned from their old way of life.

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Tasked with Holiness

- The “rest of the time”
- A Gentile vice list
 - The absence of self-control
- Surprise and disdain

Fueled by Post-Mortem Hope

- Giving an account
 - Living and dead
- Preaching to the dead?
 - Three possibilities
 - Peter issues a reminder that the promises and hope of the gospel are not thwarted or even called into question by physical death. Rather, the gospel is intentionally preached to those who will taste death, so that while their body suffers inevitable destruction, eternal life is still their inheritance as a result of God’s righteous judgment.



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- Making sense of suffering?
 - The danger of the silver lining and the importance of trust
- Not wasting our suffering
 - Suffering reveals what we cling to for comfort and “real life” hope
 - Suffering tests our convictions
 - Suffering increases our humility
 - Suffering boosts our compassion
 - Suffering expands our perspective