

# FIELD GUIDE

Sunday, July 7th 2024

THE BOOK OF

# 1 PETER

HOPE IN A HOSTILE WORLD

## SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 4:1–5

## SUNDAY REFRESHER

Peter offers a graphic description of a society engulfed in debauchery—a picture startlingly similar to certain segments of American culture. He challenges us, as followers of Christ, to live differently from the world around us, calling us to pursue the goodwill of God instead of human passions.

An inevitable consequence of such a choice is that we often face misunderstanding, judgment, and even maligning from others. This societal backlash can feel like a form of suffering, as Peter notes, but it's also a testament to living a life that is starkly different from the world's standards.

Peter uses the example of Christ's suffering to urge us to arm ourselves with the same mindset—that suffering for doing good is not only expected but is transformative. By choosing God's will over fleshly desires, we symbolically and practically 'cease from sin', breaking the power of sin in our lives. This choice marks a profound break with our past lives and demonstrates a commitment to living for God.

## PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

- What did God say to you through this passage and teaching?
- Did God reveal anything new to you?
- How is this relevant in your journey to make disciples who Love God and Love people?



## QUESTIONS

- How can Christians today arm themselves with the mindset of Christ to endure suffering for doing good in a society that often celebrates debauchery?
- What are some practical ways to live for the good will of God rather than human passions in your daily life?
- How does suffering for righteousness help sever the power of sin in our lives, according to Peter?
- Can you share a personal experience where choosing not to participate in sin led to feeling maligned or judged?

## ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

- Romans 6:1-2,5-7
- Ephesians 5:15-21
- 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

## PRAYER

