

Summary Notes

1 Peter 4:1-11

- The three big themes we have seen in the letter are:
 - Living Godly lives (because of who we are)
 - Suffering
 - Christ's ultimate example
- The *'therefore'*, is because of what Peter has just argued... do this... Or rather, Peter is telling us how to **think** in light of 3v18-22. The theme that continues here is that of Jesus' death – He died in the **body** (Lit. *'flesh'*), and was made alive by the **Spirit** (which we saw set the overall pattern of death/judgement and salvation/resurrection in v19-22). So the suffering we are primarily thinking about here in 4v1, is that of Jesus on the cross. Why? The 2nd half of v1 tells us *'For... whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin'*. This can't mean that by **our** suffering we overcome sin because Jesus didn't need to do that! Rather, the verse is talking about a **present reality**, because of a **past event**. A **new situation** for us as God's people, because of a **past suffering**, i.e. the suffering of Jesus on the cross. Jesus suffering does away with sin, so that now, as we look back, and as we arm ourselves with the same way of thinking, we can say to sin "Hello, what are you doing here?", "You don't belong here any more, I am done with sin, you have no place here!"
- As a result we should be living for the will of God and not for earthly desires!
- We get a choice in how to live (v.3) Just because it may seem easier to follow the world's living standards doesn't mean we should.
- V.5-6 gives an eternal view on the matter. Ultimately everyone will be judged, which is both an encouragement and a warning. Don't give up in living Godly lives, even though we may die in the flesh we live according to the Spirit.
- V.7-11 illustrates a radically new way of living. Rather than being sinful, self-centred and out of control, it is other person centred, loving, and self-controlled. It is a radically different, Christ-empowered, future focused life of selfless love.
- We can't change the way we live by ourselves; we need God's help – see Romans 12:2. We need an a change of mind and heart in order to fully live the lives God wants from us and remember that it is all for God's glory!

How does Peter help us to stand firm in our faith from this letter?

How does this passage highlight areas which we need to change in the way we live our lives?