

**Text: 1 Pt 4.1-3**

**Proposition: The past is past.**

This afternoon we will conduct a baptismal service. We are rejoicing to see these dear folks come today to make a public profession of their faith.

Our ceremony today is one of the most important steps of Christian life. It is public, it marks the individual out as a new person, and it means that the one who receives baptism made a commitment to depend on Jesus Christ for salvation and to live for him as a public testimony going forward.

Many people experience misgivings about their own commitment to Christ.

- Conscious of their own weakness
- Reinforced by their own history

I recall talking to someone about Christianity years ago and the young man's excuse for not trusting the Lord was, "I don't think I can live the life."

His statement showed he didn't understand what salvation is nor what Jesus could do for him.

Nevertheless, it reflects a misgiving people have about their own Christian life.

The misgiving can result in a spirit of doubting and even depression when they do stumble.

- "It's just like it always was."
- "I am trapped by my past, I can't get victory."

Today I want to offer a few verses from 1 Peter and a reassurance:

**Proposition: The past is past.**

1 Pt 4.1-3 ¶ Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,<sup>2</sup> so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.<sup>3</sup> For the time already past is sufficient *for you* to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.

## I. The suffering in the flesh: what does it mean for me?

- A. Jesus died on the cross: this is the basis of your salvation
- B. You need to “arm yourself” with the same purpose (hold that thought)
- C. The one who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin
  - 1. That is, if you are dead, you can't sin
  - 2. He is not saying that Jesus needed to die to escape sin
  - 3. He is saying you need to arm yourself with this thought: live as if you are dead to sin

He is echoing Paul:

Rm 6.11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

In other words, in a sense, you are already dead in Christ, so live your life now in the life of Christ: this is so you can cease from sin

## II. The goal is victory over sin (2-3)

- A. It is what we aim for (2)
- B. It is what we've had enough of (3)

The key: verse 1

The proposition:

**Proposition:** The past is past.

Your past shouldn't defeat you. Live in the present for Jesus Christ. Baptism marks a new milestone, you are committed to Jesus now. Live for him!