BE ARMED FOR SUFFERING

1 Peter 4

METRO TABERNACLE CHURCH, 8 JAN 2010



1 Peter 4

[1] Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body has done with sin.

[2] As a result, he does not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.

[3] For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do – living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. [4] They think it strange that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. [5] But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

[6] For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to human standards in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.

1 Peter 4

7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you
may pray. 8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a
multitude of sins. 9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as
faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of
God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so
that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory
and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to
test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

1 Peter 4

13 But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may
be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted because of the
name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

15 If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of
criminal, or even as a meddler. 16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not
be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins
with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of
God? 18 And,

‘If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly
and the sinner?’

19 So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves
to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

Be Armed For Suffering

By,

Living for God – v1-6

Loving each other – v7-11

Committing ourselves to The Creator – v12-19



LIVING FOR GOD

4:1, “Since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude.”

- “Yet not as I will, but as you will.” (Matt 26:39)

V2, “As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.”

Decide before temptation

and opposition come

Not compromise ! Not abandon God’s truth !

Not returning to evil ! Seek God’s will !



LIVING FOR GOD

Leave behind the old life, even when others ridicule you (v 3–4)

- v3, ".. debauchery, lust, drunkenness, wild living and idolatry.."
- v4, "They are surprised that you do not join ... and they heap abuse on you."
  - refuse dishonest practices
  - refuse to join in vulgar jokes
  - decline activities that in conflict with your conviction









LOVING EACH OTHER

v7, "The end of all things is near ... "

- Prayer. Love . Hospitality. Service

".... alert and of sober mind so that you may pray."

- Alert: Spiritually alert; not falling into temptation
- Sober-minded : sensibly, logically, sound judgment

V 8, "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins."



LOVING EACH OTHER

✓ “Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.” –v9

- Welcome newcomers; Invite to meal; Visit the sick; Helping the needy; provide temporary accommodation; Give time to listen.

✓ “Each of you should ... serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace ...” -v10

✓ ““If anyone speaks, ... speaks the very words of God.” – v11a

✓ “If anyone serves, .. do so with the strength God provides.” – v11b

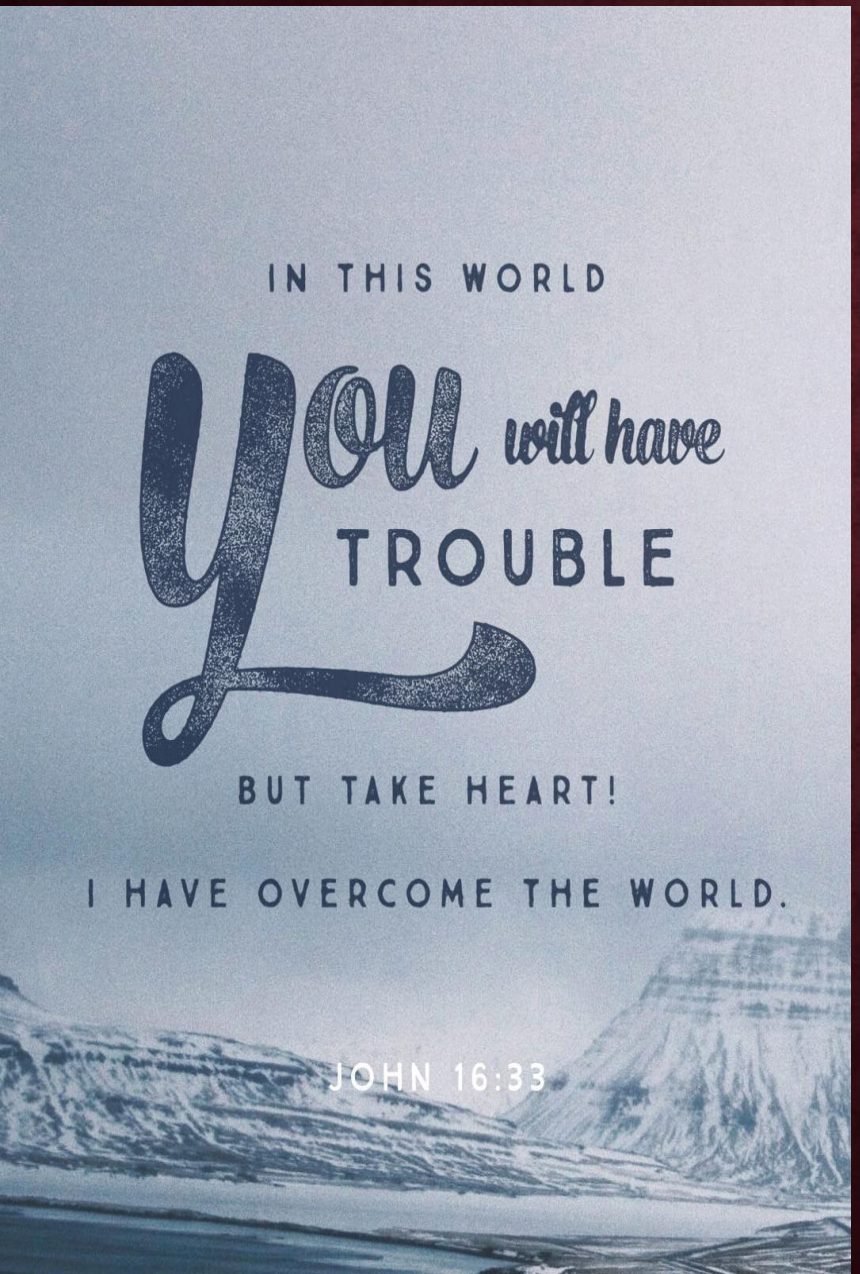
“in all things God may be praised... ”







COMMITTING OURSELVES TO THE CREATOR



v12, "... do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, ..."

Christ walks with us through suffering

v13, "But rejoice ....in the sufferings of Christ."

"So that you may be overjoyed

when his glory is revealed."

A Christian can weep today and still rejoice in hope.

"We are blessed even when we are insulted!"

COMMITTING OURSELVES TO THE CREATOR

v15, “If you suffer, it should not be .. murderer ..thief.. criminal..”

v16, “.. if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God...”

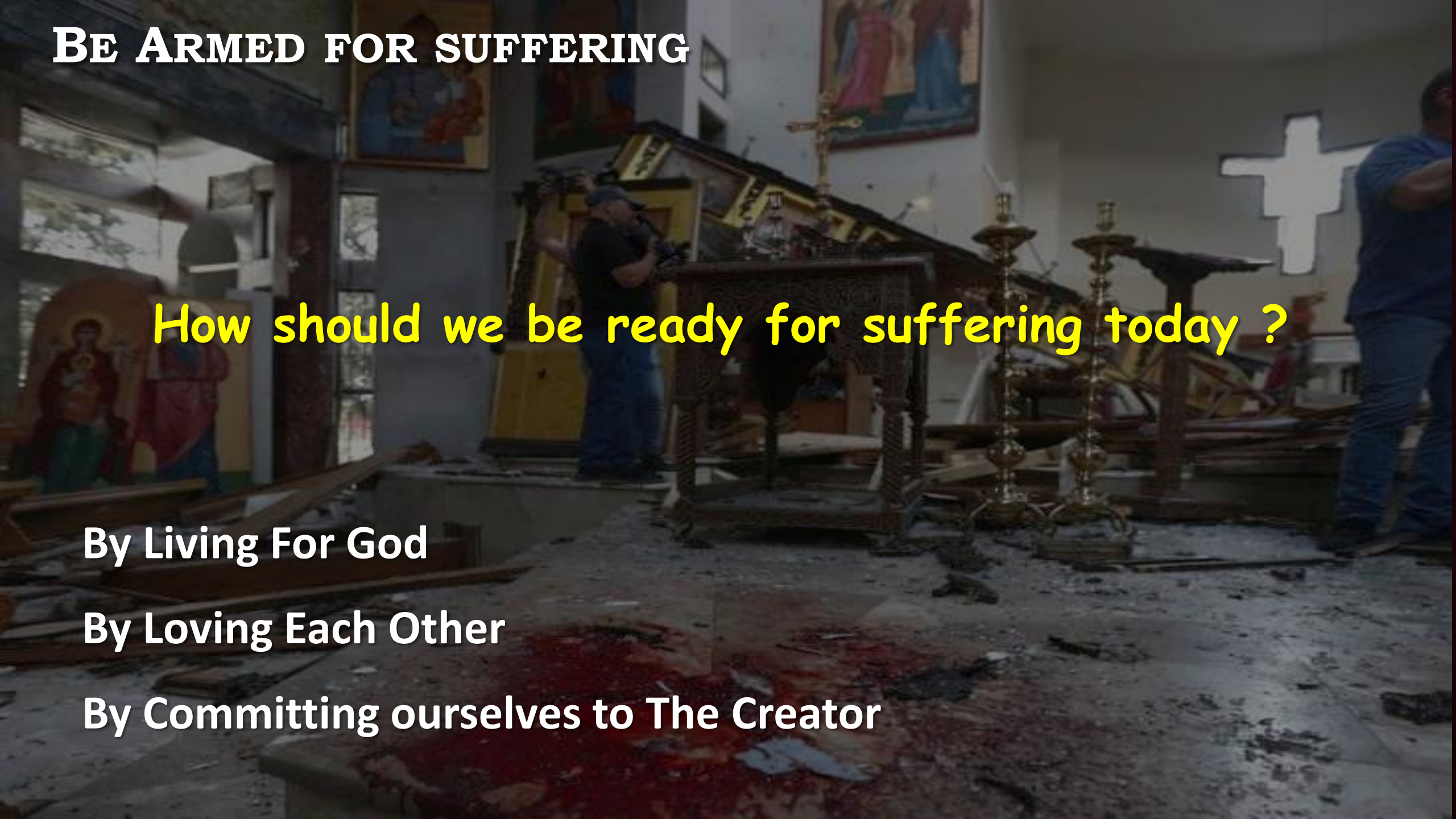
Entrust yourself to the faithful Creator

v19, “ ...commit .... and continue to do good.”

Even when it costs us something



Be Armed for suffering



How should we be ready for suffering today ?

By Living For God

By Loving Each Other

By Committing ourselves to The Creator

BE ARMED FOR SUFFERING

- No one enjoys suffering, we naturally avoid it.

  But when obedience to Christ is costly, be prepared to bear that cost.

- Allow God to use suffering to sanctify us.
- Continue doing good.

  God sees it.

  And the final outcome is in His hands.

- When we do what is right and suffered, we suffered with Christ.

Be Armed with the attitude of Christ



Focus on Christ

We are not saved because we suffer well.

We are saved because Christ suffered for us.