

4:14 – Hebrew **Messiah** means “anointed one”. Greek **christos** means “anointed”. The addition of “-ian” at the end of a word or name was used to identify those who followed the person or belonged to the group. It was natural that followers of **christos** would be called “Christians” (Followers of Herod or supporters of the Herodian political platform were called Herodians. Christians first identified by that name 17-20 years earlier in Antioch in 43 AD in Acts 11:26.

Interesting that the followers of the “anointed one” are told that they have also been anointed when Peter calls them Christians and says “the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.”

4:15 -

Criminals (taking people’s life, property and rights as in murder, thief, meddler) :

- Murderer
- Thief
- Criminal
- Meddler - **allotriepiskopos** (αλλοτριεπισκοπος) made up of two words:
 - **allotri** = “belonging to another”
 - **Episkopos** = overseer
 - This means “a self-appointed overseer in other men’s matters.”

4:16 -

4:17 – The reason for the suffering is that of God’s judgment. Peter says because “it is time to begin the judgment.”

- In the OT judgment began in the house of the Lord:
 - Ezek. 9:5-6
 - Jeremiah 25:29
 - Malachi 3:1-6
 - Daniel is told of God’s method of purifying his people in Daniel 11:33-35.
- In 2 Baruch 13 judgment began with the people of God: “For the Lord first judges Israel for the wrong she has committed and then he shall do the same for all the nations.” (Test. Benjamin 100:8-9 in the Dead Sea Scrolls
- 1 Corinthians 11:31-32 – The Lord’s Supper is a time to judge ourselves in the church or God will judge us.

4:18 – Peter uses Proverbs 11:31 as a text verse where it says in the LXX: “If the righteous is scarcely delivered, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?” and the Hebrew text reads: “If the righteous is requited on earth, how much more the wicked and the sinner!”

This suffering that Peter is referring to is part of the testing of faith he mentioned in 1:6; 4:12; 5:8-9. The world may be used by God to test and judge the believer, but in the end the world will be judge and condemned by the Lord.

These tests will separate the believer from those who merely follow the crowd to church. These tests will challenge the believer when they fail the test to reevaluate their faith and commitment as happened to Peter himself when he denied Christ.

4:19 – Peter now identifies our response and coaches us towards the right attitude. This section concludes with Peter’s advice concerning suffering by saying: “So then,…” and giving us two steps to follow:

1. “entrust” yourself to God
 - a. “entrust” is παρατιθημι and means “to hand over something of value to the care of another.”
 - b. “themselves” is the word ψυχας (psychas) which is often translated “soul”. But, Peter is not talking merely about the soul, but could be indicating that the world will attack your body, but God will care for the growth and preservation of your soul.
 - c. This point of advice seems to come from Jesus on the cross (Luke 23:46) quoting Psalm 31:5 (Also, used by Stephen in Acts 14:23)
 - d. “Creator” is only used here in the NT for God (though the concept is not absent in the NT.) The Creator began with a plan and gave us a place in the plan, so entrust yourself to the Creator and keep going.
2. Continue to do good
 - a. Doing good is basically doing what is acceptable in God’s eyes, but in most cases it is also acceptable in the eyes of men: obeying masters, following laws of the land, submitting to family and social order,
 - b. This “good” has been identified in -
 - i. 2:14-15
 - ii. 2:20
 - iii. 3:6
 - iv. 3:17
 - c. Avoid retaliation. Avoid returning evil for evil

There may be consequences, but we are to do good and face the persecution while winning people to the Lord and to the Truth.

5:1 – Verses 5:1-5 is fit between 4:12-19 and 5:6-11. In 5:6-11 Peter returns to talk about trusting God and facing suffering.

5:1-5 is focused on the leadership within the local body of believers that are facing rejection, persecution and suffering.