

AGAINST THE WIND

A STUDY IN 1 PETER

March 4, 2018

Pastor Scott Wieking

Following Christ in Opposition

1 Peter 4:1-6

“I have spent many years of my life in opposition, and I rather like the role.”
Eleanor Roosevelt

Opposition: The Human Condition

1 Peter 4:1-6

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ² so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. ³ For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. ⁴ With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; ⁵ but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶ For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.

Approaching a Difficult Bible Passage

What is the author's purpose?

What is the purpose of the Bible?

How to Follow Christ When You Encounter Opposition

1. Take the Jesus View

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking... 1 Peter 4:1

2. Take the Redemptive View

...for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

1 Peter 4:1b-2

3. Take the Future View

...but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

1 Peter 4:5

Resources:

The NIV Life Application Commentary: 1 Peter by Scot McKnight

The Early Christian Letters for Everyone by N.T. Wright

Living in Sync (Regent Audio) by Darrel Johnson

Sophie Scholl: The Final Days (a film featuring the true story of Sophie Scholl)

Digging Deeper into Following Christ

This week's passages:

Monday – 1 Peter 2:18-25

Tuesday – Hebrews 12:1-4

Wednesday – Hebrews 12:5-11

Thursday – 1 Cor. 9:24-27

Friday – Matthew 5:11-16

Weekend – Review the most meaningful passages of the week.

Each day this week you are invited to read the day's passage and then respond to the following questions. Take special note of what God's word says about Following Christ when it is difficult. You might find it beneficial to use a journal or notebook to record insights.

1. Read the passage prayerfully, listening for the voice of God and asking him to speak to you.
2. Record or write down the word, phrase, or verse that God impresses upon you.
3. Reflect and write down what it is about this word, phrase or verse that is meaningful to you.
4. Respond by writing a prayer or recording what it is that you think the Lord wants you to do in response to his word ("*Be doers of the word and not hearers only*" James 1:22).