



A Tale of Two Cities

1 Peter 4:1-6

November 2, 2025

- **THE BIG IDEA:** In Jesus Christ, the Christian has a clear example how they must live. The **sins** that they once held so dearly must be put to death. The world will live godless and sinful lives because that is what they love, despite possessing the knowledge that God exists. The Christian is the only person that can look death in the face and declare: **victory**.

1 Peter 4:1-6 (NASB95)

4 1 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, 2 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. 3 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. 4 In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you; 5 but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.

The Mortification of Sin

- + The death of Christ was **foreordained** from before time began.
- + Jesus Christ did not **avoid** suffering; He willingly **embraced** it.
 - o “No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.” - John 10:18
- + If you want to be like Christ, arm yourself by preparing for **suffering**.
- + Peter reminds the reader that he who suffers for Christ now, has ceased from sin.
- + The ongoing battle between the Christian and sin and the Christians desire to put sin to death is known as the **mortification** of sin.

The Way of the World

- We don’t need evidence that the world is lost, we can simply look at who we were before we came to faith in Christ.
- **Lost** people act **lost** because they are **lost**.
- It is not your job as a Christian to be **open** and **affirming** of what the world says is ok.
- “A man with God always makes a **majority**.” - John Knox
- The God who judged faithfully in the past, will judge faithfully now in the present, and will ultimately judge faithfully in the future.

Greater Things are Still to Come

- For the Christian, the day of their death does nothing but bring them to the **Savior**.
- “For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.” - 2 Corinthians 4:17
- Only the Christian can look at death and say, “This can only make me better.”
- All the judgment that we face from the world in this life leads only to our **triumph**.
- **Glory** is coming!

“Two cities have been formed by two loves: the earthly by the love of self, even to the contempt of God; and the heavenly by the love of God, even to the contempt of self. The former, in a word, glories in itself, the latter in the Lord. For the one seeks glory from men; but the greatest glory of the other is God, the witness of our conscience. The one lifts up its head in its own glory; the other says to its God, ““Thou art my glory, and the lifter up of my head.””

St. Augustine
