

A Study of The Epistle of 1st Peter

Theme: “A LIVING HOPE!”

Trinity Lutheran Church -

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Lesson: 29

Chapter 4:3-5

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BIBLE TEXT:

(3) 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.**

STUDY NOTES:

(3) 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.

(Ezek 44:6; 45:9; Rom 13:13; 1 Cor 12:2;

Eph 2:2; 4:17-19; 1 Th 4:5; Titus 3:3)

(4) With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you;

(Eph 5:18)

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

(Mt 25:31-46; Jn 5:27; Ac 10:42; 17:30,31; Rom 2:5; 2 Tim 4:1; Jas 5:9)

Luther's Works – Volume 30 pp. 118-119

“From now on, as long as we live, we should take the flesh captive and mortify it by means of the cross, so that we do what is pleasing to **God**, not that by doing so we should or could merit anything. “No longer by human passions,” he says; that is, we should not do what we or others feel a desire to do. For, as Paul says in Rom. 12:2, we should “not be conformed to this world.” We must avoid what the world would have us do.

Before we came to faith, we went to extremes by living so shamefully, “doing what the Gentiles like to do.” This is tantamount to living in human passions. Therefore as long as we live from now on, we must see to it that we do what pleases **God**. For we have our enemy in our flesh. He is the real rascal, not only the gross things but above all the illusion of reason, which Paul calls *prudentia carnis*, that is, “the mind of the flesh” (Rom. 8:6). If this rascality has been subdued, the rest is easily subdued. This rascality commonly harms our neighbor so furtively that one cannot notice it.

By “licentiousness” St. Peter means outward gestures or words with which one gives evil indications even if the deed is not done, and with which one reveals indecency in seeing and hearing. From this the lust and also the deed result. Then such abominable idolatry also follows. Therefore we can apply this to ourselves; for since we have now lost faith, we have surely also lost **God**; and if we look at it in the proper way, we are certainly practicing idolatry more abominable than the idolatry practiced by the Gentiles.

That is, so far you have lived as the Gentiles do; but now that you have desisted, people find this strange and consider it disgraceful and foolish. They say: “Ah, what big fools they are to turn away from all worldly goods and pleasure!” But let them think it strange! And let them revile you! They will have to give account. Therefore leave this to **Him who will judge.**”

LIFE APPLICATION

How will we give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead, clothed in Jesus' righteousness, as sheep on the right hand of Jesus?

