## Lesson Notes: 1 Peter 3:18-4:6 (NIV based) (additional lesson option)

TITLE: Body In Contrast To Spirit

INTRO: This lesson will take a different approach: finding, listing, and analyzing contrasts between living by the body (or flesh) and living by the spirit. (v.4:6)

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READ: 1 Peter 3:18-4:6, with vv.3:13-14,17 for context

Look for contrasts between body and spirit, one verse at a time, and then discuss it. (Note: The type characters < > are to mean "in contrast to".)

<u>v.3:18</u> -- body - Christ sacrificed unto death < > spirit - so that we might be alive by the Spirit.

<u>v.3:21</u> -- body - baptism is not removal of dirt < > spirit - baptism is an action of the spirit of a good conscience.

vv.3:21-22 -- body - Christ's bodily resurrection < > spirit - brings our spirit reuniting with our body and eternal life in heaven.

v.4:1 -- body - choose to suffer < > spirit - attitude of Christ - done with sin.

v.4:2 -- body - not living evil desires < > spirit - living righteous desires - will of God.

 $\underline{vv.4:3.6}$  -- body - pagans live to satisfy evil desires in the body < > spirit - believers live to satisfy God by the spirit.

vv.4:3-4 -- body - pagans "choose" and enjoy doing evil in the body < > spirit - they "think" its normal and thereupon condemn righteousness.

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IMPLIED:

<u>vv.4:3,1</u> -- body - behaves naturally and continues in that < > spirit - behaves contrary to naturally and arms for change.

vv.4:3,4,5 -- body - live by only what is seen and/or felt < > spirit - live by what is believed, despite what is seen and/or felt.

v.4:4 -- body - further indulging in wickedness < > spirit - abstinence from wickedness.

<u>v.4:4</u> -- body - blending in with the world and enjoying camaraderie with others who are doing the same < > spirit - different than most everyone and suffering of scorn.

vv.4:4,3 -- body - disregards God < > spirit - obeys God.

<u>vv. 4:4,14</u> -- body - follows the philosophy that choosing a life that produces suffering only leads to more suffering < > spirit - follows the philosophy that choosing a life that produces suffering leads to an overabundance of blessing and joy in the midst of suffering.

<u>v.4:5</u> -- body - believes he is unaccountable and thereupon engages in wickedness < > spirit - believes he is accountable and thereupon engages in righteousness.

<u>vv.4:5,1</u> -- body - ignores the future (which is foolish) < > spirit - arms and prepares for the future (which is wisdom).

<u>vv.4:4,5,13</u> -- body - self-gratification (indulgence) in the present produces reduced suffering in the present but horrific suffering in the eternal future < > spirit - self-denial (abstinence) in the present produces increased suffering in the present but overflowing joy in the eternal future.

<u>v.4:6</u> -- body - pagans will receive eternal punishment according to the evil they did in regard to the body < > spirit - believers will receive eternal reward for the righteousness they did in regard to the spirit.

vv.4:4.6 -- body - fleshly advice leads to death < > spirit - spiritual advice (the gospel) leads to life.

vv.4:4,6 -- body - man's opinion and approval < > spirit - God's opinion and approval.

<u>v.4:6</u> -- body - men will be judged in regard to the body < > spirit - no condemnation, and freedom in the spirit for the righteous, who will "live according to God in regard to the spirit".

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BIG IDEA: <u>Suffering for righteousness looks beyond the present to future joy and</u> <u>blessings</u>. As we choose to pursue righteousness, we will endure suffering while in the body but we can gain relief in the spirit through God's Spirit.

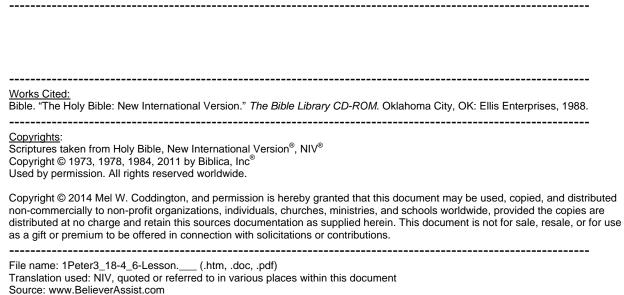
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IMPORTANT SUB-POINTS: What are some other important points God is making here in these verses?

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APPLICATIONS: What applications can you think of for how we should respond to the concepts in these verses?

PERSONALIZED APPLICATIONS: From these verses, what do you think God wants <u>you</u> to learn, or know, or remember, or put into effect in <u>your</u> life? How are you going to do that?



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