

Sunday, May 16, 2021
“Hope-Filled Living”
Summary of Breaking with Sin
1 Peter 4:1-6
Wayne Shelton

Augustine spent the early years of his life following the pattern Peter describes in 4:3: *“For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles – when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.”* But one day he was in a garden where children were playing a game that contained the refrain *tolle lege; tolle lege*, which means ‘pick up and read.’ With those words ringing in his ears, he picked up the Bible and his eyes fell upon this passage: *“Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts”* (Rom. 13:13-14). At that moment, Augustine’s heart was stricken because he recognized himself in the text he was reading. He said in essence, “I have made every provision I could to fulfill the lusts of my flesh. I need to change my clothes. God grant that He would dress me in the clothes of Christ that I may no longer make provision for the lusts of the flesh.” Peter says the same thing. We know the bankruptcy of our former way of life. We ought to spend our time for the will of God. We have spent enough time doing the will of the pagans. Peter draws the line for those who have died with Christ to the life of sin. That life went on long enough. The new life, the rest of our earthly life, is before us.

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