

## 501 Pies

*“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.” 1 Peter 4:3.*

In this passage, Peter is giving us great ammunition to combat some of our temptations. The first part of the verse is very important. In the ESV it reads, “For the time that is past suffices for doing ...” The HCSB reads, “For there has already been enough time spent doing ...” The NASB reads, “For the time already past is sufficient ...” Peter is telling Christians to remember this because we're often tempted by sins we've already committed.

Let's look at an analogy: If a person were to eat 500 cherry pies, would pie 501 make any difference? Could the person have lived a full life without eating pie 501? Would they have missed out on a great experience in life by not eating pie 501? Of course not. Because the person has spent enough of their past lifetime eating cherry pies.

When sin tempts us, there are times when we'll want to give up Christianity and turn back to it. We might feel like we're missing out on a full life – that we're too restrained by our commitment to Christ and want to experience more of the world. Can we really live without that one vice that makes everything OK? Peter says that we can. Because we have spent enough of our past lifetime in vices.

Peter is telling us that we've already had our experiences with sin. We've already spent more than enough time partaking in it. When we're tempted by it, we should remember: We're not missing out on a great experience by not sinning. We won't be empty and left in the dust. Sin 501 isn't going to get us any closer to God and it isn't going to add to our lives. In fact, by not doing it, we're living fuller lives and growing closer to God. We've already committed enough sins. We've already spent a sufficient amount of time doing the works of the world. We've already eaten enough cherry pies to last us a lifetime. And if we never eat another cherry pie again, we're no worse for it. **[DJR]**