

1 Peter 4:1-11 Aliens Living for God

If you knew the world was going to end in 2 weeks, would you live any differently to what you are now? Why or why not?

Read 1 Peter 4:1-6.

1. What was the past behaviour of Peter's readers?

2. What is the Gentile reaction to the new behaviour of Peter's readers?

3. What do we learn about judgement in verse 5?

4. How might this help the Christians deal with the abuse they are receiving?

5. What is the only way men and women can pass through God's judgement and see life on the other side? (Compare verse 6 with similar wording in 1 Peter 3:18.)

Read 1 Peter 4:7-11.

6. In verse 7, Peter urges his readers to do two things: be self-controlled and sober-minded (i.e. have their wits about them - right mind).
 - a. How are these two commands related to the imminent end of all things?

 - b. How does this way of life compare with the pagan behaviour of verses 3-4?

 - c. How is this way of life helpful for prayer?

- d. What do you learn about the nature of prayer from this?

7. In verse 8, Peter turns to how we treat others.

- a. How should we love?

- b. What do you think it means that "love covers a multitude of sins"? (Cf. Prov 10:12.)

- c. What is the purpose of the gifts we receive from God? How should we exercise them?

- d. What is the ultimate goal? How does this relate to both verse 7 and to one of the constant themes of Peter's letter?

Implications:

- When do you experience pressure from people around you to join them in immoral behaviour? How do you normally react to this pressure? How does this passage help and encourage you to live for Christ?

- How do you think a lack of self-control and an inability to remain sober-minded affects your prayers (1 Pet 4:7)?

- Would you describe your love for your Christian brothers and sisters as "deep" (1 Pet 4:8)? How can you be using hospitality and your gifts for the sake of others?