

## **The St. Peter Option: To Everyone an Answer**

### **Living as Exiles in a Foreign Land**

1 Peter, 2 Peter, Christian Vocation, and the Table of Duties

## **20 The Mind of Christ and the End of All Things**

1 Peter 4:1-11

### **Today's study will focus on 1 Peter 4:1-11**

Christ's suffering in the flesh gives us an insight (mind) into how we are called by the Gospel to live in this world as the end of all things approaches. The evils of the world, with all its false doctrine and anti-Christian dogma, are all signs of the end. The sobriety of faith and prayer, living in love and hospitality toward one another, exercising the gifts that God has given us in the ministry to the glory of God in Christ Jesus is the disposition to which we are called.

1. **Christ's suffering in the flesh for the salvation of the world gives to us an insight** into how we are called to live in the latter days as the end of all things approaches and Christ appears again in glory.

**Mind** = thought, knowledge, insight, attitude, thinking

"Arm yourselves with the same insight or way of thinking about your lives as Christians..."

2. **"He who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin..."**

**Suffering in the flesh** = not mere suffering; but suffering with faith in Christ, entrusting ourselves to Him who suffered for us, and suffering the denial of the lusts of the flesh...

**What does the flesh want to do in the face of external suffering?** Lash out in acts of retribution. Lust includes not merely desiring to satisfy the self-centered longings and appetites of the flesh, but also of the attitude of vengeance and desire for revenge.

**Lust is characterized by one of two things:**

- a. The desire for vengeance against external suffering (cutting off the ear of Malchus); or
- b. Acquiescence to the "will of the Gentiles (Nations)" walking in the fulfillment of sinful desire ("If you can't beat them, join them"—His denial of Jesus)

Peter teaches us throughout his witness to the Gospel what he also learned from experience, that "walking in the way of the Gentiles" can never give true peace and freedom to the conscience.

3. **The unbelieving world thinks it strange that we do not run with them** in the same flood of dissipation. To the world the tenants of the sexual revolution, LGBTQ+ teaching on human sexuality, critical race theory, woke ideology, and progressive secular humanism are obviously the true, correct, and enlightened world view. If we do not "run with them" we are spoken of as evil, bigoted, backward, mean-spirited people, etc.

"Licentiousness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries..." are all things that the self-centered, governed-by-emotions flesh wants, just like the evils of our age.

4. **There will be a judgment of the unbelieving on the last day**, but this judgment is for God to meet out in His time. It is not given for the church to meet out this judgment. Our use of the Law is to call to repentance and to be in service to the Gospel and faith in Christ.
5. **The Gospel of Christ is preached to those who are dead in the hope that they might live.**  
This “preaching of the Gospel” is centered first upon the content of who Jesus is and what He has done for us, but it also includes the way in which the Church is called to live in this world. Our preaching of Christology must be accompanied by living Christologically or with the “mind of Christ” under the things we suffer.
6. **What are we called to do since the end of all things is at hand?**  
**Watchful in Prayer**  
We are called to be self-controlled, serious, sober-minded and watchful in prayer. Jesus said, “See, I have told you these things...” and this becomes a comfort to us that we might not only endure suffering, but learn to believe that the things we experience as Christians are a validation of the very truthfulness of our Lord’s Word.  
**Fervent love for one another within the body of Christ because love covers a multitude of sins.**  
**Hospitality to one another** in the body of Christ without the self-centeredness and resentment of grumbling.  
**Faithful stewardship of the ministry and Christian service within the body of Christ.**  
This involves the ordinary things that Luke records in Acts 2:42ff after Peter’s Pentecost sermon: “They continued steadfastly in the Apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers...they ate their food with simplicity and gladness of heart...and they provided for everyone as each one had need.”
7. **As the end of all things approaches, we are called to do everything to the glory of Christ.**

### Looking Ahead

**The Blessedness of Christian Suffering (4:12-19)**

**Encouragement for Pastors During the Exile (5:1-14)**