

# SEIZING THE DAY IN EXILE // 1 PETER 4:1-11

## 1. Seizing the Choices We Make [v 1-6]

**v 1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,**

- Christ suffered for us in the flesh...His suffering led to death. He became sin in order to provide salvation and to ultimately receive esteem, honor, and superiority.
- It is upon this fact that believers are commanded to arm (to put on armor or to arm with weapons) themselves with having the same mindset (equal understanding).
- Those who have had to suffer in the flesh or who have died like Christ did have ceased from sin. That is a benefit of dying for the sake of Christ...It produces victory!

**v 2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.**

- Our choices during our time as exiles on this earth should be made in correspondence to the will of God.
- If we truly desire to overcome sin, then we must be arming ourselves so that we can spend our days not living for worldly lusts (evil desires for what is forbidden).

**v 3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime...when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.**

- These lusts (desires) that Peter is mentioning here have already been referred to by him as "futile" in chapter 1 verse 18.
- The former life included things such as lewdness (unbridled lust), drunkenness (excess, too much), revelries (immoral nocturnal and drunken parade in honor of a deity), abominable idolatries (criminal acts).

**v 4-5 In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them...speaking evil of you. They will give an account to Him...**

- Many will think it is strange or literally be "shocked or astonished" when a former unbeliever is not taking part in the same excess of evil.
- Those who once were fellow friends of evil will now become enemies as they speak evil or slander and defame this person.
- Peter, the consummate encourager reassures his audience that those who persecute believers will have to give an account, whether they are alive or already dead.

## 2. Seizing the Time We Have [v 7-11]

**v 7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.**

- This end does not imply a chronological end, but a goal achieved or a purpose fulfilled.
- Since the Lord will come back, and since we should be anticipating it, we need to be serious (σωφρονέω - sophroneo - of sound and right mind) and watchful (spiritually observant) through prayer.

**v 8-9 And above all things have fervent love for one another...Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.**

- Peter mentions "above all things": he is putting these things at the superior level of importance.
- Fervent is that physiological term we've seen before that implies stretching muscles to their max.
- Why is this type of love so crucial and vital? **1.** It's at the center of truth; **2.** It validates the change by the truth in our lives.
- The way to really stretch this love beyond what is normal is to be hospitable (or love strangers).
- And it is to be done without grumbling (γογγυσμός - gogusmos - murmuring or grumbling; complaining).

**v 10-11a As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another...If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies,**

- 1.** A spiritual gift is something that is given by God (1 Cor 12:7) and received. It cannot be worked for, earned, or sought after. Nobody else other than the Spirit can give these gifts.
  - 2.** It must be used to minister to others. 1 Cor 14:12 tells us that spiritual gifts are for the edification of the church. Minister (diakoneo - to wait tables, to stir up dust). This will allow us to be good stewards of what God has given us.
  - 3.** Spiritual gifts are made up of three categories. Peter mentions two here: Speaking and Serving. Speaking involves preaching, teaching, wisdom, knowledge, and discernment. Serving involves admin, prayer, mercy, or helps.
- We then see the motivation behind these two categories of gifts: If we speak, we speak God's oracles (logion - divine word). If we serve, we do it with God's power, not our human power.