

# The Christian and the Rest of His (Or Her) Life

1 Pet. 4:1-5

## Introduction:

- A. Peter writes to Christians in trying times.
  - 1. To Christians (v. 16)
  - 2. Fiery trial upon them (v. 12)
  - 3. End of “all things at hand” (v. 7) – probably end of Jewish state (A.D. 70).
- B. Peter tell them how to spend the rest of their lives (v. 2).
  - 1. If in time of trial – what about other times?
  - 2. Also tells us, as Christians, how to spend the rest of our time here.

## Discussion:

### **I. It Should Be Spent *Living by the Will of God* (v. 2)**

- A. A contrast of two wills – of God and of the Gentiles (vv. 2, 3)
  - 1. Will of Gentiles takes little effort – go with the flow – wherever lust leads.
  - 2. Will of God takes great effort:
    - a. Studying and practicing what the Bible says.
    - b. Things must be done and things avoided to please God.
    - c. Resisting the scorn of the worldly minded (vv. 4, 6).
  - 3. A contrast of two life styles (v. 3 and v. 7).
- B. Enough is enough – of the will of the Gentiles and lusts of men (vv. 2-3 – nkjv).
  - 1. Because we must give an account unto God (v. 5).
  - 2. Because the limited time that we have (v. 7).

### **II. It Should Be Spent *Speaking as the Oracles of God* (v. 11a)**

- A. Nothing else will save now and eternally (Rom. 1:16; Gal. 1:8-9; 2 John 9).
- B. Human tradition makes worship vain (Matt. 15:9).

### **III. It Should Be Spent *Serving to the Glory of God* (v. 11b)**

- A. Use God-given talent to His glory.
- B. By being good stewards of God’s gifts (v. 10)
  - 1. Sharing with others – “even so minister the same...”
  - 2. Loving and serving one another (vv. 8-9).

### **IV. It Should Be Spent *Suffering as a Child of God* (vv. 13-16).**

- A. No one can avoid suffering (cf. Job 14:1).
- B. Basically two kinds of suffering – unavoidable and avoidable
  - 1. Unavoidable – sickness, natural disasters, etc.
  - 2. Avoidable – come as a result of our choices and actions.
    - a. As an evil doer (v. 15)
    - b. As a Christian (v. 16, cf. 3:17).
- C. Suffering may be bodily or mentally/emotional.

## Conclusion:

- A. How do you plan to spend the rest of your life?
- B. What if today were the rest of your life?