

**HERE IS A PERSONAL CHECK-UP TO HELP YOU
SEE SOME CHANGES YOU MAY NEED TO MAKE
IN ORDER TO BETTER SERVE JESUS.**

- On a scale of 1–10 how committed to Christ are you?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Cold Warm Hot

(see Revelation 3.16)

- On a scale of 1–10 how ready are you to face Jesus?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Not ready maybe Let's Go

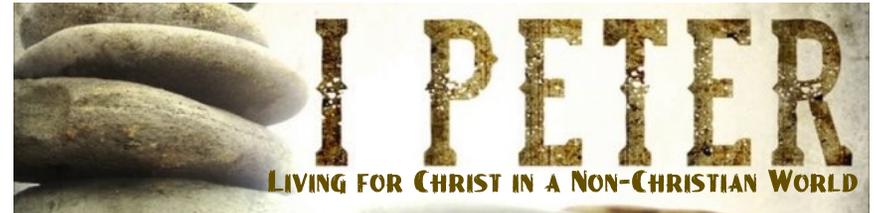
(see Hebrews 9.27)

- On a scale of 1–10 how actively are you involved in the local Church?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Consumer Watcher Servant

(see 1 Corinthians 14.12)

- What changes do you need to make in your personal life that would better prepare you to face God?
- What should you be doing that you are not doing now that would make you a better prepared believer?
- Are you using your gift (s) for the benefit of the other believers in your local church?
- Do you know what your gifts are?
- Do you see yourself as a servant/worker in the local church or do you see yourself as a consumer?
- What is keeping you from being a more active and committed Christian?
- Peter list two things that can hinder our prayers. (1 Peter 4.7) Is either of these in need of work so that your prayer life can improve? What should you do?



Study lesson #6

© 2014 Rev. Bob Highlands III - Text 1 Peter 4.1-11

^[4:1] Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. ^[2] As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. ^[3] For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. ^[4] They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. ^[5] But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ^[6] For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to men in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.

In verse one Peter starts with the word therefore. This is referring back to the previous section where he has been instructing the believer about suffering for doing Good. He wants to put this suffering into a proper perspective for the believer.

- Vs. 1 What do we who are suffering need to remember about Jesus while he was in his physical body?
- The word “arm” means to “equip” or “to make ready” much like a soldier does in preparing for battle by putting on his armor. Why does the Christian need to get ready for battle?
- What attitude toward this world and suffering should the believer have?
- Vs. 2 What are the results of our preparations and new attitude?

- ❑ Vs. 3 How does Peter define who is a pagan and not a believer?
- ❑ Vs. 4 What reason is given here for attacks on Christians by pagans?
- ❑ Vs. 5 Why should we avoid joining them in this lifestyle?
- ❑ Vs. 6 Is referring to Christian believers who have died. They were judged by men when they were alive but have now been judged by God. Are Christians judged differently by men and God? How? Why?
- ❑ What weapon do we use to fight against our enemies? How can we know this will work? See Ephesians 6.17
- ❑ How long do we have to keep up the struggle against sin? see Hebrews 12.4
- ❑ How does arming ourselves for battle prepare us for living our daily lives as followers of Christ?
- ❑ What are the rewards for bearing up under persecution? See Matthew 5.10-12 & John 15.20

^[7]The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. ^[8]Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ^[9]Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ^[10]Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. ^[11]If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

- ❑ Vs. 7 What was Peter referring to when he said the END OF ALL IS NEAR?
- ❑ How would this affect the life of a believer? See Matthew 16.26
- ❑ Read Matthew 24.36-38. What do we know about when the end of time is to come?

- ❑ According to Jesus what will be happening when the end of time comes?
- ❑ Why would people who are suffering focus on the end being near?

The word 'therefore' in verse seven ties the end with directions for believers that follow. List these directions and why each one is important in the life of the believer. These are broken down into four parts.

- ❑ Vs. 7 Direction
Result
- ❑ Why is this important to the life of the believer?
- ❑ Vs. 8 Direction
Result
- ❑ How does this help me be a better member of the local church?
- ❑ Note the word hospitality means "to love strangers"
Vs. 9 Direction
Result
- ❑ Why would this need to be done without grumbling or complaining? (see 1 Peter 4.1 for a hint)
- ❑ According to the following verses how are the believers to treat ONE ANOTHER
 - ❑ 1 Peter 1.22 _____ one another _____
 - ❑ 1 Peter 3.8 _____ in _____ with one another
 - ❑ 1 Peter 4.9 Offer _____ to one another
 - ❑ 1 Peter 5.5 _____ toward one another
 - ❑ 1 Peter 5.14 _____ one another
- ❑ Vs. 10-11 Direction
Result
- ❑ According to verse 10 what are the purpose of our different gifts?

NOTE: The 4th Chapter has two themes. First how the world treats us, second how we are to treat each other.