

# *Within the Word*

## *A Study of 1 Peter 4 & 5*

### **A Note from Kathy**

*I bet if I said to you, "Like sands through the hourglass," you would easily be able to finish with the line, "so are the days of our lives." It is very true, there is nothing we can do to slow down time. It seems like only a few hours ago, I got up to spend my day studying and writing, and now, as I look out the window, the last glimmers of light are fading. This day will soon be over. It is important for each of us to live our days with purpose, since the end is near.*

### **Observation**

#### **1 PETER 4**

1. Peter has not tried to sugarcoat the life of a believer. He has reminded the reader, that just as Christ suffered, so will his followers. In what way are believers told to prepare for suffering?
2. As followers of Christ, we have given him our heart and now desire to live for him. According to verse 3, what must believers sacrifice to become followers of Christ?

3. Peter reminds us that we have wasted enough of our days living in sin. Below, define the sins Peter mentions. We can't avoid something, if we can't recognize it.

debauchery

lust

drunkenness

orgies

carousing

idolatry

4. The friends we had prior to salvation may not understand the changes they see in us. They may react harshly to our salvation. What does it prove about their heart?
5. According to verse 5, one day every person who has not bowed their knee in repentance will stand before the righteous judge and \_\_\_\_\_.
6. In verses 7-11, Peter declares, "the end of all things is near." All the events of God's amazing plan of salvation have been accomplished. Jesus' birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension have all occurred. What does Peter call believers to do in light of this?

7. As we use our gifts to serve others, we should do it in the strength God provides. What will be the result? Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, as supporting Scripture.
8. Once again, we are reminded that suffering is a part of being a follower of Christ. Look at verses 13-16, how are we to respond to suffering for the cause of Christ?
9. Verses 17-19, remind believers to keep their sin accounts short. Believers do sin, but the difference is, we cannot comfortably stay in sin. The world is watching to see if our walk matches our talk. We say we love God, and that we commit our lives to Him, but often our actions are quite different. What must believers do each day?

## 1 PETER 5

10. What does Peter call those in leadership to consider carefully? According to verses 2-4, how are leaders to carry out this assignment? What is the reward for a job well done?
11. In verses 5-9 and 12, what instructions are given?
12. Believers are called to a life of humility and submission to the will of God. Peter acknowledges the fact that we will have things that cause us anxiety, from time to time. In these moments, what are believers to do? Be specific. According to verse 10, what is the promise we are given?

## Application

1. Jesus came for a purpose and would not be distracted. Herod tried to kill Jesus when he was a small child. Satan tried to tempt Jesus to sin, so that he would be unable to be the Lamb without blemish or spot. The Pharisees wanted to silence Jesus, even if it meant killing him. But in spite of all these, Jesus did exactly what he came to do. What was his purpose, according to Mark 10:45? Notice 1 Peter 4:1 instructs believers to arm ourselves with the same attitude as Christ. When is it necessary to arm yourself? What was Jesus' attitude?

2. We have seen a common thread of suffering throughout these chapters. Why do you suppose the writers of the New Testament thought it so important that believers understand how to handle suffering? How has this changed your thinking and your response to suffering?
3. Peter reminds us, that as followers of Jesus Christ, it is no longer our desire to live life for sin's empty promises. It is our desire to follow the will of God. Are your old friends happy for you, or are they confused by your new choices?
4. We are called to attention when Peter says in verse 7, "the end is near." No one knows the day or the hour, but if it was near at the time of Peter's writing, then how much more should we feel a sense of urgency when we read these words? Christ could return at any moment. What will you be doing today in preparation for this possibility?
5. God has called us to live a life of personal holiness, to love other believers, and to live a life of service for our Lord. He has given each of us spiritual gifts. No matter what gift or gifts a person has been given, all gifts are distributed and empowered by the Holy Spirit. What are you doing with the spiritual gifts God has given you? Is God being glorified by your service?
6. When using our spiritual gifts, Peter reminds believers to speak very carefully, because they are representing God. Remember, whatever you say, should glorify and give praise to God. We must know God's heart before we can share Him with others. What are some ways we can learn about God's heart?
7. Once again, the Holy Spirit prompts Peter to encourage those reading these words that suffering is part of following Jesus. The world hated, mistreated, and, in the end, killed Jesus. The world will hate us too. The type of suffering we endure is not important. It's how we respond to suffering that matters most. Do you recall a time you have suffered for Christ?
8. In chapter 5, we are called to shepherd God's flock. A very good book on this subject is by Phillip Keller, *A Shepherd Looks at Psalms 23*. Take a few minutes and think about what a shepherd does to care for his sheep. How are you caring for God's sheep?

9. Peter calls us to humble ourselves before God. Since humbling myself is not my natural response, I have found that the more I know about God, the more humble my heart becomes. What do you know about God's character? If someone asked you what God is like, what would you say?
10. Almost as important as knowing our God, is recognizing our enemy. What do you know about your enemy, Satan? What is his character? How does he operate?
11. Peter closes his letter with a few final greetings, and yet, he cannot stop warning the reader. Verse 1 Peter 5:12 tells believers to stand fast in the grace of God. What specifically is Peter calling us to do?
12. Write a prayer expressing thanks for something God has shown you in the two chapters we have studied this week.