



“Stewards of the Gospel”
13th in the “Elect Exiles” Series
1 Peter 4:1-11 p. 1016
February 18, 2018
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage God teaches Christians and churches how to steward their gospel-changed identity in Christ.

The Text: 1 Peter 4:1-11

- 1) A Christian individual should wage war against sin in a way that explains their identity in Christ (vv. 1-6).

- 2) A Christian church should work to form an alternative community that expresses its identity in Christ (vv. 7-11).
 - a) *Focused Prayer* (v. 7)

 - b) *Christian Love* (v. 8)

 - c) *Biblical Hospitality* (v. 9)

 - d) *Ministry Stewardship* (vv. 10-11)

Response

- You are called to be a “steward of the gospel” in your fight against sin and in your life in this church!

Sunday Text Questions for 1 Peter 4:1-11

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- 1) Starter Question: Has someone ever attacked or mocked you because of your faith in Christ, what did they attack or mock, and how did you respond?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) How do Christ's physical ("in the flesh") sufferings help the Christian deal with sin (v. 1)?
- 4) How does the military phrase in v. 1, "arm yourselves," give definition to how Christians should handle their sinful bent and temptations?
- 5) Why is it better, according to v. 2, to live according to "the will of God" than to live "for human passions?"
- 6) What does v. 3 mean when it says "the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles [i.e., pagans or non-believers] want to do?"
- 7) According to v. 4, what is so "surprising" to non-believers about the different behavior of Christians?
- 8) What does the beginning of v. 7 mean: "The end of all things is at hand?" How does this set the context for what follows in vv. 7b-11?
- 9) What would the church depicted in vv. 7-11 look like to outsiders/non-believers? What would it be like to be a member of a church life this?
- 10) How can you obey this passage and help make Hope Church a church that reflects the practices of vv. 7-11?

Further study this week: Prov 10, esp. note v. 12, on living with wisdom (Mon); Jude 17-23 on perseverance (Tues); 2 John 4-11 on the love commandment (Wed); Heb 12:1-17 on fighting sin (Thurs); 1 John 3:1-10 on practicing righteousness and avoiding sin (Fri).