

## Main Passage: 1 Peter 4:7-19

### Theological Theme

Christians are to live righteously every day.

### Introduction

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What are some other ways we might make different choices based on timing?

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When was a time you acted with greater urgency in light of the moment you faced?

### 1. End-Time Ethics (1 Peter 4:7-11)

Peter encouraged readers to live in a certain, righteous way, in light of “the end of all things” (v. 7). By “the end of all things” (v. 7), Peter meant Jesus’s second coming, which the apostles believed would happen soon. They also understood, as we do today, that the Jewish prophets couldn’t see the full picture of God’s will and plan. We are still awaiting Christ’s return, but the warning to live vigilantly still stands

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What prompted Peter’s sense of urgency in these verses? How often do you recognize and respond to this urgency in life?

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What makes it challenging to live sober minded for Christ on a daily basis?

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What gifts has God given you? How might you use them to bless and serve others?

### 2. Suffering for Being a Christian (1 Peter 4:12-16)

Much of Peter’s writing in this letter addressed right behavior during unfair suffering. Peter spoke to this again in these verses. Peter didn’t elaborate on what, exactly, he meant by “fiery ordeal” (v. 12) but this imagery paints a vivid picture. Fire can be destructive and painful. It can also be beautiful and useful when handled safely. Our trials and ordeals, too, can be destructive (destroying things like relationships) and painful, but they can also be useful, teaching us things we wouldn’t have learned otherwise, and drawing us closer to God.

- ① How is it possible for Christians to rejoice in suffering?
- ① What is the difference between suffering for Christ compared with suffering for evil?
- ① How does focusing on the example of and promised return of Christ help us suffer well for Him now?

### 3. Judgment and the Righteous (1 Peter 4:17-19)

Why should we live with the end in mind? Because we will all one day have to give an account for how we lived this life at the final judgment, and this judgment begins with God's people.

- ① What type of judgment did Peter refer to here?
- ① What does it mean to entrust ourselves "to a faithful Creator while doing what is good" (v. 19)?
- ① How does remembering God's past faithfulness to us and other believers spur us on to faithfulness in the present and future—even in suffering?

## Conclusion

- ① How should not knowing when Jesus will return impact our actions today?  
What gifts or talents has God given you that you could use to serve others?
- ① What types of "fiery ordeals" might we face today? How does our passage today inform how we should respond to these moments?
- ① How might suffering well give us opportunity to tell others about Christ?