



Marching Orders Until Christ Returns

1 Peter 4:7-11

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible Page Number is 1116.

In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Word is printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.

Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. • Pastor Joe's email: Joe@southreno.com

Big Picture Review of Chapter Four

A. Don't be controlled by yesterday (the past) vv. 1-6

People who have been born again through faith in Christ should not allow the old life to control or drag them down.

B. Be serious about today (the present) vv. 7-11

No matter how difficult life may be, we must not focus on ourselves, but Christ, for there is a job to do.

C. Be prepared for tomorrow (the future) vv. 12-19

The future will be worse before it gets better. We must be ready for the "fiery trial" that is about to come over the church.



Marching Orders for this Hostile World

1. The Incentive.

STUDY VERSE SECTION - 1 Peter 4:7a, NASB95 ⁻⁷ *The end [lit., consummation; meaning a purpose will be attained] of all things [this clearly speaks of the Lord's return] is near [lit., approaching without warning]. . .*

1 Peter 4:7, NLT ⁻⁷ *The end of the world is coming soon.*

2. The Instructions.

A. Prayerful Holiness

STUDY VERSE SECTION - 1 Peter 4:7, NASB95 ⁻⁷ *The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment [lit., be in one's right mind; it means not to be carried away by an errant view of oneself, or an undue emotion, or an uncontrolled passion (Kittel)] and sober spirit [meaning spiritually observant; spiritually clear headed for God; be on spiritual alert] for the purpose of prayer.*

B. Mutual Love

STUDY VERSE SECTION - 1 Peter 4:8-9, NASB95 ⁻⁸ *Above all, keep fervent [i.e., straining, like an athlete running] in your love [a self-sacrificing, God-inspired love] for one another [a rf., to fellow believers], because love covers a multitude of sins [rf., Proverbs 10:12]. ⁹ Be hospitable [to love strangers] to one another without complaint [lit., mummering; Poor Richard's Almanac states, "Fish and guests smell after three days" (That's not hospitality)].*

C. Spiritual Service

STUDY VERSE SECTION - 1 Peter 4:10-11, NASB95 ⁻¹⁰ *As each one has received a special [spiritual] gift [def. "Special enablements given graciously to Christians as an aid in the discharge of the special orders to which God has called them" (Wuest)], employ it in serving one another as good stewards [i.e., we don't own them; we are simple stewards of them] of the manifold [grace of God].¹¹ Whoever speaks [i.e., outward gifts], is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves [i.e., inward gifts], is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies. . .*

3. The Intention.

STUDY VERSE SECTION - 1 Peter 4:11b, NASB95 ⁻¹¹ *...so that in all things God may be glorified [this is the goal of every believer] through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory [focused recognition and/or majestic honor] and dominion [authority over everything] forever and ever. Amen.*

1 Corinthians 10:31, NASB95 ⁻³¹ *...whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

LIFE APPLICATION SECTION

Two Important Words to Ponder:

Urgency and Simplicity

In light of His coming and in light of the glory He deserves:

We must have a sacrificial attitude toward Christ.
We must have a sympathetic attitude toward mankind.