

LESSON 9
1 Peter 4:1-6

“Good and upright is the Lord;
Therefore He instructs sinners in the way.
He leads the humble in justice,
And He teaches the humble His way.”
(Psalm 25:8-9)

Our Lord teaches, and instructs and leads us *because* He is good and upright. Are we choosing (it is a choice) to avail ourselves of His provisions for living? Ask the Spirit of God to take the Word of God and interpret it into the will of God in your life. Thank Him that He desires this good thing for you even more than you do!

Review your memory verses by writing them out here. (1 Peter 1:3-5, 2:1-3, your choice from 2:18-25, 3:6, 3:15).

Memorize 1 Peter 3:17

1. Begin early in the week to review and memorize your verses. Jot down as many examples as you can where you *this week* used one of these verses to help you know and do God's will in some circumstances. (Most of our chances to put these verses to work won't be “biggies,” but our choices *will* be molding the direction of our lives, slowly but surely.)

Read 1 Peter at one sitting – prayerfully and carefully (takes about 15 minutes).

Read 1 Peter 4:1-6.

2. Verse 1 begins with the word *therefore*. What does this word generally indicate to you as you study? What does it indicate here?

In verse 1, the word translated *purpose* (NASB) may be better understood when translated as *thought* (RSV) or *attitude* (NIV).

3. 1 Peter 4:1 says that Christ suffered in the flesh. What does this mean? (1 Peter 3:18 will illuminate your understanding.)

4. What does it mean to arm *ourselves* with this same thought? (Remember, that as Noah was in the ark, so you are partakers of Christ's death and resurrection.)

5. According to 1 Peter 4:1-2, if we, in our minds, avail ourselves of Christ's death and resurrection, our life will be different. How?

10. What conclusions can you reach about God and the other folks mentioned in this passage when you consider verse 3? What significance does this have for your life today?
11. What attitudes might former friends have toward someone who begins to live according to the will of God?
12. List some instances where you have seen hurtful consequences for someone whose lifestyle changes as she or he begins to follow the Lord in choices and attitudes. That someone could be you or it could be someone you know. Please respect the privacy of others when you give examples. You do not have to use names. (Remember, the consequences may not be *big, bad* things. Even small things hurt. Perhaps the situation involves a neighbor who doesn't understand why a friend can't spend all morning over coffee with her now. Or maybe a family member doesn't like it that you won't talk badly about others in the family.

However there *are* times when the fact that we identify as followers of Christ can cause significant consequences. Can you also list some of these situations?

13. How does verse 5 help us to maintain a firm stance in our conviction and a loving attitude toward those who are against us?

14. 1 Peter 4:6 tells us that those who have died had the gospel preached to them during their lifetime so they could live in the Spirit after death as Christ did. Therefore, how do we look at physical death?

15. Write a summary sentence or two about Peter's instruction in this passage. (1 Peter 4:1-6)

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