

1 Peter 4:1-11
(Matthew 24:42-46)
“Living with the End in View”

Introduction

We are focusing in this year’s mission conference on finding our place in God’s great mission of reclaiming this world and its people to his kingdom, of reconciling those from every tribe and tongue and people and nation, to a life of intimate, loving friendship with him and with one another.

If Christ had to suffer in order to reconcile us to God, and if we will never know the power of his resurrection until we have entered into the fellowship of his sufferings, if – in other words – Christ’s mission was not just to make a way for us to be forgiven, but for us to be united in intimate fellowship with the living God, then we who claim to be his followers need to begin to adopt a whole new way of looking at life. And this is precisely the point that the apostle Peter is making in these verses: “Since, therefore, Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourself with the same way of thinking” (4:1). We can only do that as we begin to live with life’s end in view.

Jesus always calls his followers to a whole new perspective on life, to a radically new way of viewing and evaluating everything, because – of course – he wants new life to flow out of this new perspective. And he is not merely interested in how we see things, but in what we do with this new perspective. He wants to make all things new, and we are his agents, the members of his body, given as a gift to those around us, to show them as well as tell them of God’s great good news in Jesus Christ.

This morning, I want to underscore five of the ways Peter shows us in these verses that we will begin to see and evaluate things differently, if we seek to have the mind of Christ, as he puts it in verse one, to “arm [ourselves] with the same way of thinking” as our Lord Jesus. Only as we begin to see with his eyes will we be able to find our place in God’s mission.

Body

- 1. A disciple looks differently at *suffering and pleasure* (4:1-4).**
- 2. A disciple looks differently at *the present and the future* (4:5-7a).**
- 3. A disciple looks differently at *prayer and daily living* (4:7b).**
- 4. A disciple looks differently at *giving and getting* (4:8-11a).**
- 5. A disciple looks differently at *God’s glory and one’s own glory* (4:11b).**

Conclusion

Don't you get weary of this world's perspective: a view where it's all about self, where everything hangs on the state of the world, on the decisions of politicians and corporate leaders, where trends are set by the dysfunctional world of fashion and entertainment, where even the wisest too often see everything only in the light of the moment, where we are doomed to realize at the end of the day that we have wasted our lives on things that are passing away?

How different it is when at last we begin to see things from Christ's perspective and to realize that all of history is moving toward the day when the earth is filled with the knowledge of God's glory, and when every knee bows and every tongue proclaims that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of the Father.

It is those who have the eyes of Jesus and the mind of Christ who invest their lives in the great mission of God that alone gives our lives meaning and purpose and eternal significance. It is those who live with the end in view who can face without fear and with growing joy and confidence whatever comes, "in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen" (4:11).

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