

Expectations

Ephesians 3:20-21

How Can I Help You?

Show hospitality to one another without grumbling or complaining. | Peter 4:9

A. Our Weapons - "Arm Yourselves..." [4:1-3]

[1] Thinking: A New Mindset [4:1]

... to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. **Romans 8:6**

[2] Living: A New Focus [4:2]

... He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised. **2 Corinthians 5:15**

[3] Recalibrating: A New Day [4:3]

Thus says the Lord God: Enough, O princes of Israel! Put away violence and oppression, and execute justice and righteousness. **Ezekiel 45:9a**

B. Our Motivation [4:4-6]

[1] Coming Judgment [4:4-5]

[2] Mission of Grace [6a]

[3] Redemption [6b]

C. Our Mission - Above all... "allelon" [4:7-11]

[1] Keep Loving One Another Earnestly [4:8]

[2] Show Hospitality to One Another Without Grumbling [4:9]

[3] Serve One Another [4:10-11]

I Peter 4:1-4 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, [showed His opposition to sinful living] [I Peter 3:18] arm yourselves [persecuted believers] with the same way of thinking, [attitude] [Ephesians 6:13] for whoever has suffered in the flesh [Romans 6:2, 6:7, Galatians 5:24, Colossians 3:3, Colossians 3:5] has ceased from sin, [adopted a Christ-like focus] [2 Peter 2:14] ² so as to live [Romans 6:14, 14:7, 2 Corinthians 5:15] for the rest of the time in the flesh [1 Peter 1:14] no longer for human passions [Titus 2:12, 1 John 2:16] but for the will of God. [Romans 6:11] ³ For the time that is past suffices [more than enough] [Ezekiel 44:6, Ezekiel 45:9, Acts 17:30] for doing what the Gentiles want to do, [Ephesians 4:17-19, 1 Thessalonians 4:5, 1 Corinthians 12:2] living in sensuality [lust], passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, [these three are virtual synonyms for excessive drinking and the disruption and behavior that ensues] and lawless idolatry. [The list in verse 3 consists of behaviors that in general lead to self-indulgence at the cost of others]

I Peter 4:4-6 With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, [living outside the ark] [Ephesians 5:18] and they malign you; [I Peter 2:13, 3:16] ⁵ but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. [James 5:9, Acts 10:42] ⁶ For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does. [I Peter 3:19]

I Peter 4:7-11 The end of all things is at hand; [James 5:8] therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded [I Peter 1:13] for the sake of your prayers. [Matthew 26:41, Luke 21:36] ⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. [1 Corinthians 13:5-6, James 5:20] ⁹ Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. [Hebrews 13:2, 1 Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:8] ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, [Romans 12:6-7, 1 Corinthians 4:7, Matthew 25:15] as good stewards of God's varied grace: [Luke 12:42, 1 Corinthians 4:1-2, Titus 1:7] ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; [Acts 7:38, Romans 3:2, Hebrews 5:12] whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies [Romans 12:3] — in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. [1 Corinthians 10:31] To him belong glory and [Romans 11:36] dominion forever and ever. [1 Peter 5:11, Jude 1:25, Revelation 1:6, 5:13] Amen.

Study Questions/Prayer

- [1] Read I Peter 4:1-3. Peter uses the first three verses of his letter to provide an overview of three vital weapons we have as believers [Thinking, Living, and Recalibrating]. How do the supporting verses [Romans 8:6, 2 Corinthians 5:15, and Ezekiel 45:9a] give us insight into the challenges and blessings of these weapons in our journey as believers?
- [2] Read I Peter 4:4-6. How does the understanding of coming judgment, the mission of grace, and redemption as believers help us live according to God's will in the world as described in these verses?
- [3] Read I Peter 4:7-11. How do these one another [allelon] callings [earnest love, hospitality without grumbling, and serving] impact the lives of people around us? When was a time someone stepped into your life and practiced one of these callings?
- [4] Pray for God to teach us to love one another earnestly, show hospitality without grumbling, and serve each other as good stewards of His grace, and to empower us to speak and serve with the strength He provides, so that in everything, He may be glorified.