

First Peter 4:4-19

4:4 – suffering due to non-conformity to the empty life (or, **asotia** meaning an empty life-style). Non-conformity led to misunderstanding and slander of the Christians calling them:

- Haters of mankind
- Political disloyal and unpatriotic (worship of the emperor could be equivalent to the pledge of allegiance to the flag in the USA)
- Uncommitted to their city and society (participation in civic ceremonies involved sacrifices, etc)
- Unprofessional (membership in a trade guild required attendance at meetings in temples)
- Rejected their families (families would worship together in their homes and even eat meals in the temples together for birthdays, etc.)

4:5 – the Christian may feel rejected by men and God in time, but that was not a problem

God was the judge in the end (1 Peter 1:17; 2:23)

God would judge the living and the dead means those who had physically died had not escaped final judgment and likewise those who were still alive would face death and then judgment or meet the Lord at his return.

The image that judgment is “ready” refers to be prepared for an event that is going to happen.

It is a idiomatic phrase in the Greek used in Acts 21:13; 2 Cor. 12:14; Daniel 3:15 and James 5:8-9 when he says “the Judge stands at the door.”

4:6 – Death and judgment is the time for the Christians vindication.

- “the dead” refers to those who have already died physically just as it did in 4:5
- “preaching” is not the same as 1 Peter 3:19

God is the judge of the dead who are waiting for judgment

God is also the judge of the living who will eventually die and then face judgment.

The phrase “preach the gospel” is **euangelizo** and means to announce the good news.

In 1 Pt. 3:19 the word was simply **kerysso** which means “proclaim” and needs an object to identify what was “proclaimed”

Those who are going to be judged are all men who had a chance to respond to God and the Gospel. They will be judged based on their response to the Gospel that they heard.

Peter uses “preached” in the aorist tense which means it was a past act that is now complete.

This matches the fact that they are now dead and the “preaching” has ceased, but the results will still be effective in judgment.

Judged in the flesh simply refers to being judged by the human point of view

- Rom. 8:5
- 1 Cor. 3:3
- 1 Cor. 9:8
- Gal. 3:15
- 2 Cor. 5:16

These Christians are now judged by men, but they will be judged by the Lord.

We are judged by men according to the flesh, but we are judged by the Lord according to the Spirit

4:7 – “the end of all things is near” is a phrase that connects the concept of temporal time to the same scale as eternal time. On that scale “the end of all things has always been near” in comparison Mat. 10:22; Mat. 24:13; Mark 13:13; Mark 13:7; Luke 21:9; 1 Cor. 10:11; 1 Cor 15:24; Rev. 2:26

4:8 – “clear headed” means sane, sober

Consider yourself soberly in line with reality. Not too lofty. Not too debased

Do not lose touch with reality. Don't get so heavenly minded you are no earthly good.

Don't get so focused on Christ return that you neglect your responsibilities here on earth

“clear headed” literally means “not drunk” and can refer to wine, but is focused on mental alertness compared to goofy thinking. Reality compared to false philosophies.

Be alert to reality and this will lead you to prayer

Prayer is not an escape or some wild spiritual frenzy, but the clear thoughts of a believer communicating with the Lord from a perspective of reality seeking power, assistance and guidance for this time in this age.

This “watch and pray” in Mat. 24:41-42; 1 Cor. 16:13; Col 4:2

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