

# 1 Peter 4:4-19

New American Standard Bible 1995

1 <sup>4</sup> In *all* this, they are surprised that you do not run with *them*  
2 into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign *you*;  
3 <sup>5</sup> but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge  
4 the living and the dead. <sup>6</sup> For the gospel has for this purpose  
5 been preached even to those who are dead, that though they  
6 are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit  
7 according to *the will of God*.

8 <sup>7</sup> The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound  
9 judgment and sober spirit for [the purpose of prayer].  
10 <sup>8</sup> Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another,  
11 because love covers a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup> Be hospitable to  
12 one another without complaint. <sup>10</sup> As each one has received  
13 a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good  
14 stewards of the manifold grace of God. <sup>11</sup> Whoever speaks,  
15 *is to do so* as one who is speaking the utterances of God;  
16 whoever serves *is to do so* as one who is serving by the  
17 strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may  
18 be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the  
19 glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

20 <sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among  
21 you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though  
22 some strange thing were happening to you; <sup>13</sup> but to the  
23 degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on  
24 rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may  
25 rejoice with exultation. <sup>14</sup> If you are reviled for the name of  
26 Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of  
27 God rests on you. <sup>15</sup> Make sure that none of you suffers as a  
28 murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;  
29 <sup>16</sup> but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, he is not to be  
30 ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. <sup>17</sup> For *it is* time  
31 for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if *it*  
32 *begins* with us first, what *will be* the outcome for those who  
33 do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup> And if it is with difficulty  
34 that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless  
35 man and the sinner? <sup>19</sup> Therefore, those also who suffer  
36 according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a  
37 faithful Creator in doing what is right.

## Observation (What does it say?):

Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?

- Underline the commands in the passage.
- Put brackets around [explanations or reasons] for the commands if there is any.
- What words are repeated in this passage?
- What else do you observe in this passage?

## Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- Why do you think Peter wrote about “the end of all things” here? What was his thought process from the previous passage?
- How do all the commands and explanations follow from “The end is near, therefore...”?
- Is the “Amen” at the end of v. 11 a stopping point, or does “Amen” connect the text?
- What does Peter mean by
  - “judgment begins with the household of God”?
  - “with difficulty the righteous is saved”?
- What questions come to mind as you read?

## Application (What does it mean for me?):

- How does this passage affect your thinking about “end times”? Is that what Peter meant by “the end of all things is near”?
- Peter wrote almost 2000 years ago about “the end is near.” How do you understand what he means? How would you answer a skeptic who uses that as an argument against the faith?
- How does this passage affect your understanding of who God is and what He is doing?

For more suggested methods of study: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/methodical-bible-study/>

For examples of inductive studies: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/inductive-bible-study-examples-2/>

## Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

### **Observation** (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

### **Interpretation** (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

### **Application** (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures,  
but draw everything from them,  
and suffer nothing to remain  
hidden that is really in them.  
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**

For a much more detailed description of the methodology, see

Robert A. Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*. Wilmore, Kentucky: Asbury Theological Seminary, 1952.

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