



# 1 Peter

The Journey Home

## **The Glorious Journey**

**1 Peter 4:1-11**

Message #10 of 13 – S691

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Sunday Morning Service

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# The Glorious Journey

## *1 Peter 4:1-11*

### Opening Comments

- Turn to **1 Peter 4**
- Today, we continue our series through the first letter from Peter – **The Journey Home**
- A regular theme in movies and TV shows is that of the underdog
- The hero or heroine is in some kind of circumstance that looks like it is hopeless
- As the show progresses, it looks more and more hopeless
- And then, at the last possible moment, something happens and the tides are turned and the hero prevails
- Peter's letter is written to the underdogs of his time
- These Christians are experiencing the attacks of evil persecution
- Peter is writing to encourage them to keep walking this journey we call Christianity
- As we walk this journey, like Peter's audience, there will be times when we might feel like the underdog in a movie
- It might feel like circumstances and enemies are lined up against us and there is no way for us to succeed
- Peter is going to remind us today that we are in the middle of the movie of our life, this is not the end
- He will point to the end of the movie and remind us how it ends
- And he will also remind us of our role in this movie we call our Christian life
- If you are able and willing to do so, please stand as we read today's text as a sign of reverence for God's Word
- Read **1 Peter 4:1-11**
- **Pray**

### Teaching

- **The Glorious Journey**
- I want to begin by asking you a trick question – notice I said trick question, “Who is the star of the movie of your life?”

- I am not the star of the movie of my life – Jesus is
- If I am living my life the way I should be, then Jesus is on center-stage
- My role is to be a supporting character to Him
- My life is a part of a much greater drama, of God’s plan of redemption is this world
- The reason why some Christian struggle in this life is because they believe in their heart that they are the star of their movie
- For us to travel the glorious journey that God would have us to, we need to get into character
- Warren Wiersbe in his commentary on this section outlined this text with four attitudes all Christians need to develop
- I am going to use those attitudes as an outline for our message today
- The first attitude we need to develop **A Militant Attitude Toward Sin**
- **1 Peter 4:1-2**
- The ‘Therefore’ points back to **1 Peter 3:18**  
**For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit...**
- Jesus died for the sins of the whole world
- And for those of us who believe that, we would say more personally, ‘Jesus died for my sins’
- Peter says to us, since that is true, ‘arm yourselves also with the same mind’
- ‘same mind’ = mind of Christ –we could take this whole time to talk about the mind of Christ
- People focuses on Christ’s mind as it relates to sin
- Sin is doing anything that is contrary to the heart, mind, character, will or word of God
- There is a phrase here that some believers have a hard time with
- ‘he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin’
- Does that mean that Christians shouldn’t sin, well, we shouldn’t, but we do
- Turn to **Romans 6**
- This is an important concept to understand

- Some Christians don't understand why they continue to sin after they are saved
- They might even question whether they are saved or not
- Paul addresses that very issue
- **Romans 6:6-7**
- Paul is not saying that Christians don't sin, saying they are not slaves of sin – we have the liberty to stop sinning
- Turn back to **1 Peter 4**
- So what does Peter mean
- Let me give you an illustration – one of the pivotal events of WWII was D-Day – the landing of troops on the beach at Normandy
- It is described as the beginning of the end of WWII
- But it wasn't the last battle
- In fact the bloodiest battle was some months later at the Battle of the Bulge
- As Christians, our D-Day was the day we accepted Christ
- We were freed from the Slavery to sin, but the war is not over yet
- There are many battles yet to be fought with the sin nature within us
- Which brings us to the phrase, 'arm yourselves'
- This pictures a soldier preparing for battle and reminds us of the spiritual armor that we have been provided in Ephesians 6
- The war against sin was won by Jesus on the cross, but every believer needs to develop a militant attitude toward sin because the battles will continue as long as we are living in these bodies
- And in verse two tells us that part of that battle is picking sides; our flesh or the will of God
- And then he says in verse 3
- **1 Peter 4:3**
- 'Gentiles' = unsaved world
- You've wasted enough of your lifedoing the will of the unsaved world
- We need to develop a militant attitude toward sin, but we have to be careful about our attitude toward sinners
- Our second attitude we need to develop – **A Patient Attitude with the Lost**

- **1 Peter 4:4**

- The unsaved world thinks it strange when we don't run with them
- Some of you might remember after you were saved how your friends thought it was weird that you didn't do the things you used to do
- This doesn't end after we are saved
- The whole world is moving along in a flood of dissipation, or wildness, doing what they feel is right
- Some recent examples of this conflict
- A couple of years ago, the world was moving toward normalizing same-sex marriage
- Christians and Christian churches planted their feet and said, 'No!'
- And the world thought we were strange – accused Christians of being homophobic and labeling them as 'haters' – even accusing them of hate-crimes
- Today the 'flood of dissipation' has to do with transgenders using restrooms according to the gender they identify with
- The world will think you are strange if you don't run with them
- But be careful, develop a patient attitude toward them, because...

- **1 Peter 4:5-6**

- A day is coming in the future when everyone who didn't accept salvation through Jesus will stand before Jesus and have to explain their life to Him
- The Apostle Paul told Timothy how to respond to that truth **2**

**Timothy 4:1-2**

**I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: <sup>2</sup> Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.**

- The only way to escape that judgment is to accept that Jesus died for your sins before you die
- And once we are saved, we need to develop a patient attitude toward the lost in the hopes that they will hear the gospel of Jesus and be saved
- The third attitude that we need to develop is **An Expectant Attitude Toward Christ's Return**

- **1 Peter 4:7**
- All of the writers in the New Testament lived expecting Jesus to come back in their lifetimes
- We refer to that doctrine as the Imminent Return of Christ
- They believed that because Jesus said things like **Matthew 24:42-44** **Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.** <sup>43</sup> **But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.** <sup>44</sup> **Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.**
- Jesus' imminent return is even more imminent today than it was when Peter wrote this
- One of the attitudes that God would call us to have is one of expectation of Christ's imminent return
- If we have an expectant attitude it is going to change our behaviors
- Just like when you are expecting company in your home – we do things differently when we are expecting company
- Peter focuses on one thing in this verse and then, three others in the following verse
- In this verse, an expectant attitude should result in serious and watchful prayers
- In context, that would be prayers for the lost
- If we remember that we are supporting characters in God's drama of redemption, then it makes perfect sense that we ought to be praying for the lost
- And if we are expecting Christ to come back at any moment, like He might, we would be diligent to pray for the salvation of the lost people around us
- The fourth and final attitude we need to develop is **A Fervent Attitude Toward Other Christians**
- Three times in the next three verses Peter uses the phrase 'one another' – about how we relate to other Christians
- If we keep in mind that Peter is writing to people who are experiencing difficulties in life – these three exhortations from Peter are remarkable and should be a source of conviction for some
- **1 Peter 4:8**
- 'have fervent love' – love = 'agapen' = selfless love

- ‘fervent’ = real, genuine, sincere – with the sense of eagerness, intensity, and continuity
- All believers are called to this kind of love **John 13:35**  
**By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.**
- Peter quotes Proverbs 10:12, ‘love will cover a multitude of sins’
- This is done through forgiveness and putting up with the weakness of others
- Much more could be said about that, but we must move on
- **1 Peter 4:9**
- Hospitality was highly esteemed in Peter’s time
- Means: disposed to treat guests and strangers with cordiality
- It is about making people feel welcome and comfortable
- And Peter says to do it without grumbling – have the right attitude
- **1 Peter 4:10-11a**
- Here Peter is telling them to minister or serve one another
- The word gift is the Greek word ‘charisma’ and it is referring to grace
- These gifts are an expression of God’s grace
- God gives every believer these grace gifts for the purpose of ministering or serving other Christians
- If I were to ask you how many ministers we have in this church – the right answer is however many Christians that call this church home
- Peter breaks the gifts into two basic categories; speaking gifts and serving gifts
- Whatever gifts God has given you through His Spirit were given to you to be used for the Christians God has put around your life or in your church
- A fervent attitude would compel you to use them to your fullest ability
- As we prepare to close I want to share something about this church and my prayer of it
- That three things would be obvious to anyone who comes into this place; fervent love for one another, that people would feel welcomed and comfortable, and that people would be freely exercising the gifts God has given them
- If you are just visiting, I pray that is what you witnessed here today

- If you call this church your home church, then you play a role in that
- You can be an expression of love to others in this church
- We refer to ourselves as a hugging church – simple expression of God’s love
- You can be a part of making people feel welcome and comfortable
- Not sure what to say, how about, ‘Hello, my name is Rick, what’s your name? We are glad you are here. Is there anything you need or have questions about? No, enjoy the service.’
- And last, discover the gifts that God has uniquely given you and exercise them.
- If you don’t know how to do any of that, get into a small group Bible Study. They can help.
- Peter closes this section with a doxology – the credits, as it were
- **1 Peter 4:11b**
- As I said earlier, we are not the stars of our movies
- We are supporting characters
- God is the reason why we do all that we do, and He always will be
- To fulfill our role well, we need to get into character, begins with our attitudes
- **Militant Attitude Toward Sin**
- **Patient Attitude Toward Sinners**
- **Expectant Attitude Toward Christ**
- **Fervent Attitude Toward Other Christians**
- Let’s get into character and play our role well as we continue this glorious journey
- Amen–**Pray**